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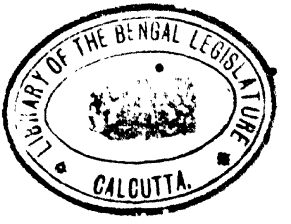


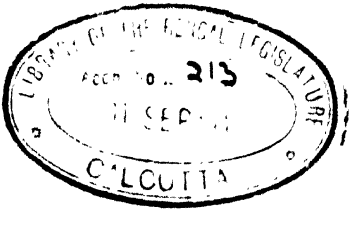
Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Thirteenth Session, 1942

The 25th, 26th, 27th March, 1st and 2nd April, 1942



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1942

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sir MUHAMMAD AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, Esq.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib QUAZI MUHAMMAD SADRUL OLA.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

A. B. CHATERJI, Esq.

REGISTRAR.

MANZURA QUADERI, Esq.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. ABUL KASEM FAZLUL HUQ, in charge of the Home and Publicity Departments.

(2) The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE, in charge of the Finance Department.

(3) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca, in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department.

(4) The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU, in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department.

(5) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM, in charge of the Education and Commerce and Labour Departments.

(6) The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE, in charge of the Revenue and Judicial and Legislative Departments.

(7) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

(8) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, in charge of the Communications and Works Department.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN, in charge of the Forest and Excise Department.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS.

Official Report of the Thirteenth Session.

Volume LXII—No. 4.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 25th March, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 199 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Curfew orders in Dacca.

***196. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state the areas covered by the curfew orders in Dacca city in October last and their population?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any arrangement was made by the authorities for—

(*i*) the supply of food to the people who were asked to keep within doors for two or three days;

(*ii*) the supply of milk for children and diet to the sick of those areas; and

(*iii*) giving medical help to the people of those areas?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate to make any enquiries about the complaints of the people of the areas affected by prolonged curfew orders?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) The whole of the jurisdictions of Kotwali, Sutrapur and Lalbagh police-stations was placed under curfew order by night for certain periods during the month of October, 1941. The population according to Census of 1931 is approximately 138,518.

In the following areas continuous restriction orders were enforced for 48 hours:—A certain area in Farashganj, police-station Sutrapur; an area east of the Nawabpur Road as far as Banagram Road, police-station Sutrapur (in this area the order was extended to a total period of 72 hours); an area in Rahmatganj and Posta, police-station Lalbagh; two areas in Nawabganj, police-station Lalbagh; an area in and around Kayettuli, police-station Kotwali; roughly the same area, on a further occasion; an area in Tikatuli; police-station Sutrapur.

No figures are available for the population of these areas.

(*b*) (*i*) No arrangements were made for this in the belief that sufficient stores were carried.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) An Additional District Magistrate was deputed to arrange that milk for children and medical assistance were available in cases where the need was established. In this matter his collaborators were a Hindu municipal commissioner, and the Health Officer, Dacca Municipality, and he had the assistance of the Civic Guards.

(*c*) No.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the Additional District Magistrate who was so deputed, with reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*) and (*iii*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say the name.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) (*i*) where it is stated "no arrangements were made for this in the belief that sufficient stores were carried", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a proper enquiry was made beforehand that they were carried?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I hope that was done, but I cannot say.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) where it is stated "that milk for children and medical assistance were available in cases where the need was established" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state before whom the need was to be established—before the Tribunal or Additional District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Established by the people to the satisfaction of the Additional District Magistrate.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Does the Hon'ble Minister want us to believe that the need for milk for infants and medicine for invalids had to be established for 72 hours?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All that I can say is that the Additional District Magistrate is after all a human being and he must have had consideration for these infants and invalids. I cannot say anything more than that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the member for the Dacca General constituency, i.e., myself, made a personal representation to His Excellency the Governor complaining that on a similar occasion only two months ago when curfew orders were enforced in the Kalootola area, women and babies went without milk and the patients without medicine and there was incalculable suffering inflicted on the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*) (*i*) whether any complaint was made to Government regarding the difficulty of food-supply?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am not aware.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that all the areas contained in the answer are predominantly Hindu areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether it is a fact that while the people of Dacca in the Nawabpur area were going to help the needy people with milk, water and other things, they were prevented from doing so by the sergeant in charge of the locality at the time?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: These are specific allegations and if answers are wanted I suggest that notice be given separately.

Disapproval of the revised rules by the security prisoners of Hijli Special Jail.

*197. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the security prisoners in the Hijli Special Jail have on receipt of the revised rules submitted a petition to him expressing their disapproval of the revised rules?

(*b*) If so, what action have the Government taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question of allowing further amenities to the security prisoners is at present under consideration.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to which revised rules did the security prisoners object—some of the rules or all the rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Some of the rules.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which are those rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: All that I can say is generally about the amenities provided for. As regards the details I have not got the papers before me. As I have said, the whole question is under the consideration of Government experts and papers are not with me at present.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of placing on the table a copy of the objections raised by the security prisoners so that we may know what those objections are?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have said, this question arose a long time ago, and the papers are not with me. The petition was received on the 24th of October, 1941, and all the papers were sent to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, on the 13th November, 1941, and have not yet been received back.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to reply (*a*), namely, "yes," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this petition was submitted to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The first petition was received on the 22nd of July, 1941, followed by another petition on the 5th of August, 1941. Then again there was a reminder and a supplementary petition on the 24th of October, 1941.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Did the Hon'ble Minister send any reminder to the Inspector-General of Prisons to expedite matters?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The date will show that I was not the Minister in charge of the Home Department then.

Licences issued for taking out processions with music in Dinajpur.

***198. Babu PREMHARI BARMA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when was the order prohibiting processions with music before places of public worship issued to the District Magistrate of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) whether the order was published for general information?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be further pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the number of licences issued to different persons for taking out religious and other processions with music in the town of Dinajpur from 1927 up to available date of 1941 (including the licence that was issued to the Maharaja of Dinajpur in 1941 for the procession of Sree Sree Kantajiu)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) No such order was issued.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) I am making enquiries and will furnish the figure to the honourable member when it is received.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*) will the Hon'ble Minister kindly let us know whether the order issued by the Magistrate was done on his own initiative?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know what the honourable member means by this order.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: By the order I mean the rder putting a restriction on the licences issued by the District Magistrate. I ask whether that order was issued on his own initiative or at the instance of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: *District Magistrates issue* orders in such cases on their own initiative.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Does the Hon'ble Minister contradict the statement contained in question (*b*), namely that a licence was issued to the Maharaja of Dinajpur in 1941 for the procession of Sri Sri Kantajiu? No reply has been given to this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have already said, I am making enquiries and will furnish the information to the honourable member when it is received.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Pleaders and advocates engaged by Government in connection with Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee.

86. Mr. SAHABE ALUM: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of pleaders, advocates and counsels engaged to conduct the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee;

(*b*) the amount actually paid to each of these pleaders, advocates and counsels, as (1) fees and (2) allowances; and

(*c*) the total expenditure incurred for this Enquiry Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) The information is given below—

Names.	Totals sanctioned.		
	Fees.		Travelling allowance.
	Rs.	a.	Rs.
Mr. J. N. Mazumdar, Bar.-at-Law, Senior Standing Counsel ..	74,715	0	1,774
Mr. S. M. Murshed, Bar.-at-Law ..	21,649	8	1,664
Mr. Pankaj Coomar Ghosh, Government Pleader, Dacca ..	6,826	0	70
Maulvi Naimuddin Ahmed, Additional Government Pleader, Dacca	2,435	0	70

(*c*) The total expenditure up to the end of January, 1942, is Rs.95,395-3-3.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the daily fee of Mr. S. M. Murshed and how many years' standing he has got at his back?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Mr. S. M. Murshed is a barrister-at-law with a little more than three years' standing and he is already one of the most prominent advocates in the Calcutta High Court.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this Mr. Murshed is his nephew?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: He is not only my nephew but is also closely connected with the Dacca Nawab family.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why four lawyers were engaged in connection with the Dacca Riots Enquiry Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think my honourable friend being himself a lawyer knows this quite well.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (c), viz., the total expenditure up to the end of January, 1942, is Rs. 95,395-3-3, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the figure has been arrived at inasmuch as the total of the above columns comes up to Rs. 1,09,000 and something more?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I did not check the figures myself and perhaps the clerk concerned also did not know that there was somebody here to scrutinise them. As they appear there may be something wrong in them, but I have given the figures as supplied to me. If there is anything wrong I take a note of it and will see what should be done.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these two Counsel, Mr. Majumdar and Mr. Murshed, were given travelling allowance for their journey to Calcutta from Dacca and back every week besides the fees that were being paid to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not every week but every time they were required to come back to Calcutta.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how was the selection made in the case of Mr. Murshed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The Counsel were selected by the Legal Remembrancer in consultation with the then Home Minister Sir Nazimuddin.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: What was the daily fee of Mr. Murshed?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say that from the figures here, but if the honourable member wants the exact figure, I must have notice.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the appointment of Mr. Murshed was necessitated for the maintenance of communal ratio in this case?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is a question which, I think, Sir Nazimuddin can answer better than I can.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Has the Committee submitted its report?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the old Coalition Party passed a unanimous resolution in their party meeting recommending the withdrawal of these two Counsel from the case?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am afraid, if I am pressed to give an answer, I must say, it is true that the party were getting impatient at the manner in which public money was being wasted, but it was Sir Nazimuddin who insisted that the enquiry should go on, and that is why I could not abide by the decision of the party.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this Mr. Majumdar was connected with Mr. Suhrawardy in Daga's case?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order,

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Distress in certain area of Kishoreganj, Mymensingh.

*69. **Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that due to failure of crops last year and early rains, acute economic distress prevails in the *bhati* area of the Kishoreganj subdivision?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of petitions that have been submitted by the agriculturists to the Central Banks of—

(1) Kishoreganj, and

(2) Bhairab

for establishing Co-operative Banks; and

(*ii*) the number of new banks established in 1941 by the Central Banks of Bhairab and Kishoreganj in the Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Bajitpur, Austagram, Nikhly and Itna police-stations, respectively?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan): (*a*) Yes, there is some distress in the *bhati* area of Kishoreganj subdivision due to failure of the main crops last year as a result of drought followed by heavy early rains.

(*b*) (*i*) (1) Kishoreganj Central Bank—145.

(2) Bhairab Central Bank—176.

(*ii*) Bhairab police-station—21.

Kuliarchar police-station—23.

Bajitpur, Austagram, Nikhly and Itna police-stations—Nil.

Orders under Defence of India Rules on some pleaders of Khulna restricting their movements.

*190. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate of Khulna passed an order on the 30th August, 1941, against Babu Panchanan Pal, M.A., B.L., and Babu Birendra

Nath Dutta, B.L., both Pleaders of Khulna, under rule 26 (*1*) of the Defence of India Rules restricting their movements in the district of Khulna?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether they were asked to explain their conduct at any time before or after the date of these orders; and

(*ii*) what was the duration of these orders?

(*d*) Is it a fact that these gentlemen were subsequently served with orders, dated the 17th October, 1941, further restricting their movements within the limits of the Khulna Municipality for a period of one year?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the paternal residence of Babu B. N. Dutta is within the Bagerhat subdivision and that of Babu P. Pal is within the Sadar subdivision of the Khulna district;

(*ii*) that these two internees are practising pleaders of Khulna; and

(*iii*) that these restrictive orders have affected their profession?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*e*) The reasons appear from the orders, copies of which are laid on the Library Table.

(*c*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) One month.

(*f*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*f*) (*iii*), namely, "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how does he arrive at that conclusion?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I did not arrive at the conclusion. The information was supplied by the District Magistrate and I am passing on the information.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (c) (i), namely "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of asking persons upon whom restriction orders were passed to explain their conduct?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, I entirely agree. They should be asked to explain.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to hold an enquiry with reference to these two cases whether they have got anything to say with regard to this order?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, I will do that.

Days allotted for budget discussion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, may I know how many days were allotted this year by His Excellency the Governor for voting on demands for grants?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: 15 days.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Then may I know why of 15 days only 12 days have been allotted and not the whole period? As a result, we have been given no time for such an important matter as "Labour".

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you details later on.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 50,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture".

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about policy of Government regarding fixation of jute quota for this year.

It cannot be assumed from the Government policy that they are actuated by a genuine desire to do good to the jute-growing public or for the matter of that the people of Bengal in the matter of jute regulation.

It is obvious that the main object of regulation is to ensure proper price for the commodity which is the only money crop of the province by adjusting the supply to the world demand. It is needless to mention that the position of Bengal in the cultivation of jute is unique but this position is being taken advantage of rather than being utilized to the good of the people. Our people are disorganised. Knowing this fact full well they are left to themselves for marketing this commodity and thrown at the mercy of the purchasers. Business is not philanthropy and as such it is the interest of the purchasers to purchase in a cheaper market. They cannot be blamed for that. Our growers have not got the holding capacity and as a result the market is glutted at one time and the commodities are sold at the dictation of the purchasers as against all rules.

What Government has done to ensure fair price and stop the evil? By mere restricting the area under cultivation no useful purpose can possibly be served and the money spent for this purpose is absolutely misspent. The huge army of officers maintained can do nothing except maintaining themselves. The department is also top heavy.

May I know what were the considerations in fixing the quota for this year—whether it was done in conformity with the opinion of the majority of members of the Advisory Committee and the advice of the representatives of jute growers was not accepted. What is the good then of this show of a committee and spending money over it?

It is a well-known fact that the second purpose of regulation is to exhaust the existing stock of jute but the decision of increase to about double of last crop will supplement the stock to such an extent that it will be impossible to exhaust it even if there be no cultivation of this crop for the coming two years. It will be seen that the highest acreage reported by Government was never more than what it will be this year and that after regulation of the crop by spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees. What is the justification of this increase in the acreage? Export has practically been stopped due to abnormal conditions, the mills have raised the capacity to the maximum and domestic consumption is the same. How then the huge excess will be consumed? The inevitable result of this short-sighted policy of the Government is the fall of prices to even more than half. Jute will be an unsaleable and useless commodity and the cups of misery of the people will be overfull. For this nothing but the short-sighted, incomplete and faulty decision of the Government is responsible.

The problem of food-supply is taking an alarming state which should receive the immediate attention of Government. Bengal is a deficit province so far the supply of rice is concerned. It is not that we have not sufficient land to grow rice but that we have no plan before us. Nearly 4 crores of maunds of rice are imported in India every year from Burma and in Bengal alone about one crore thirty-five lakhs of maunds. That source of supply is now totally stopped and even now we are hearing cries of rice shortage in some places and there is no knowing when this shortage will assume a serious proportion. Scarcity of rice will inevitably lead to an abnormal rise of prices. It is, therefore, suggested that in view of the supreme importance of keeping the civil population well fed an energetic drive should be undertaken forthwith for the production of more food crops and cultivators advised to grow suitable food crops in lands released from cash crops where cultivation has become uneconomic. Will the Government take this timely warning?

I think as usual the Government will say that it is the doing of the old Government, but the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture was also Minister of previous Government. Moreover after the declaration of war by Japan it was incumbent on Government to revise their decision and reduce the quota to the last year's level, or even less, to suit the prevailing condition. No self-governing institution can be bound by the decision of the previous Government if that decision be not conducive to the wellbeing of the people to whom the Government is responsible.

With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় সহকারী সভাপতি মহাশয়। মাননীয় কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহাশয় ৫০ লক্ষ ৫৭ হাজার টাকা কৃষি বিভাগের জন্য চেয়েছেন। আমি তা থেকে একশ' টাকা কমাবার জন্য একটা ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব দিয়েছি। আমার মতলব হচ্চে এই যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাবের দ্বারা এই কৃষি বিভাগের যে কাজটা হয় সেটা যে পর্য্যাপ্ত নয়, আরও ভালভাবে হওয়া দরকার সে সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করা। প্রথমে একটা কথা বলা দরকার যে কৃষি বিভাগে খরচ হয় ৫১ লক্ষ ৫২ হাজার টাকা এবং আয় হয় ২ লক্ষ ৭৫ হাজার টাকা। অর্থাৎ এই বিভাগে একটা টাকা ব্যয় কোরে তিন পয়সা দুই গণ্ডা এক ক্রান্তি আয় করে, অর্থাৎ ১০০৲ টাকা ব্যয় কোরে এই বিভাগে পাঁচ টাকা পাঁচ আনা আট গণ্ডা এক কড়া এক ক্রান্তি আয় হয়। আমার মনে হয় যে ব্যয়ের ৫১ লক্ষ ৫২ হাজার টাকা থেকে যদি আয়ের ২ লক্ষ ৭৫ হাজার

টাকা বাদ দেওয়া যায় এবং সেই বাকী টাকাটা যদি বাংলাদেশে যে ৬১,৪৬০,০০০ লোক আছে এদের মধ্যে ভাগ কোরে দেওয়া যায় তবে প্রত্যেক লোক পাঁচ পয়সা পেয়ে এক দিনের জলখাবারের কাজটা মিটিয়ে নিতে পারে। আর প্রত্যেক বাড়ীতে গড়ে যদি ৫ জন লোক থাকে তবে ৫×৫=।৵৫ (সওয়া ছয় আনা) যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের খয়রাতী পায় তাহলে তারা বেশ জল খেতে পারে।

এই বিভাগের দ্বারা যে কি কাজ হয় তা আমরা যারা পল্লীগ্রাম থেকে এসেছি বুঝতে পারি না। কৃষি বিভাগ, যে বিভাগটা বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণের প্রাণের সঙ্গে সমস্ত বৈষয়িক ব্যাপারে জড়িত হওয়া উচিত, দেখা যায় তার সঙ্গে এর কোন সম্পর্ক নাই। এতে বোঝা যায় এর ভিতরে কিছু গলদ আছে। যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্যান্য বিভাগের সঙ্গে তুলনা কোরে দেখা যায় তাহলে দেখা যাবে যে কৃষি বিভাগের মাথা আছে, খানিকটা বোধ হয় ধড়ও আছে, কিন্তু হাত নাই, পা নাই। আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আছেন, ডিরেক্টর অব্ এগ্রিকালচার আছেন, তার সঙ্গে সাঙ্গোপাঙ্গ হিসাবে Livestock Expert, Agricultural Engineer, আর ২।৪টা অফিসার আছেন। কিন্তু যেটা থাক্‌লে তাঁরা কাজ করতে পারেন সেই হাতের এবং পায়ের অভাব। ধরুন যদি শিক্ষা বিভাগের সঙ্গে তুলনা করি তাহলে দেখতে পাই শিক্ষা বিভাগের একটী মন্ত্রী আছেন, তাঁর নীচে একজন ডিরেক্টর অব্ পাব্‌লিক ইন্‌ষ্ট্রাক্‌সন আছেন, তাঁর নীচে প্রত্যেক ডিভিসনে এক একজন ইন্‌স্পেক্টর অব্ স্কুলস্ আছেন, তাঁর underএ প্রত্যেক ডিষ্ট্রীক্টের জন্য এক একজন ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট ইন্‌স্পেক্টর অব্ স্কুলস্ আছেন, তাঁর নীচে প্রত্যেক মহকুমায় সব-ডিভিসনাল্ ইন্‌স্পেক্টর অব্ স্কুলস্ আছেন, আর প্রত্যেক থানায় সাব-ইন্‌স্পেক্টর অব্ স্কুলস্ রয়েছেন তাঁর অধীনে। যদি মেডিকেল ডিপার্টমেণ্টের কথা ধরা যায় তাহলেও সেখানে ঐ ধরণের জিনিস রয়েছে দেখা যাবে, আর পুলিশ ডিপার্টমেণ্টটা যদি দেখা যায় তাহলে দেখি প্রথমে হোম্ মিনিষ্টার আছেন, তারপরে রয়েছেন ইন্‌স্পেক্টর-জেনারেল অব্ পুলিশ, তাঁর অধীনে সুপারিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট অব্ পুলিশ এবং ডেপুটী সুপারিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট অব্ পুলিশ, তারপরে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা প্রবল প্রতাপশালী দারোগাবাবু থানায় রয়েছেন, এবং তারপরে কনষ্টেবল ভায়ারা এবং দফাদার চৌকিদার রয়েছেন। রেজিষ্ট্রেশন একটা ছোট বিভাগ, তাতে দেখা যায় একটি ইন্‌স্পেক্টর-জেনারেল অব্ রেজিষ্ট্রেসন রয়েছেন, তাঁর নীচে ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট রেজিষ্ট্রার, তাঁর নীচে সাব্-রেজিষ্ট্রার রয়েছেন—এইভাবে তারও একটা organisation রয়েছে। লোকেরা জানে অমুক জায়গায় রেজিষ্ট্রেসন কর্‌তে হয়, পুলিশের কাছে অমুক জায়গায় যেতে হয়, শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে যেতে হয় সাব্-ইন্‌স্পেক্টর বাবুর কাছে এবং কোথায় তাঁর আড্ডা তা জানা আছে, কিন্তু যে বিভাগের সঙ্গে ওতঃপ্রোতভাবে জড়িত হওয়া উচিত সেই বিভাগের মানুষ কোথায় থাকে, তা খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না। যদি থানার আশপাশে খোঁজ করা যায়, এবং থানা থেকে মহকুমায় খোঁজ করা যায়, এমন কি জেলায় যদি খোঁজ করা যায় তাহলে আমাদের ঐ কৃষি বিভাগের অফিসারকে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় কি না সন্দেহ। তার জন্য বলেছিলাম যে এই বিভাগে organisation হিসাবে এমন একটা defect রয়েছে যার জন্য দেশের জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে তার কিছুতেই যোগ হ'তে পারে না। কাজেই যদি কোন মন্ত্রী কিম্বা উচ্চপদস্থ কর্ম্মচারী কোন পলিসি

বা প্রোগ্রাম স্থির করেন সেই পলিসি ও প্রোগ্রামকে রূপ দেবার জন্য যে লোকের দরকার সে লোকের একান্ত অভাব। তাকে রূপ দেবে কে, বা তাকে কার্য্যে পরিণত করবেই বা কে? যদি কার্য্যে পরিণত করতে হয় তবে গ্রামে গ্রামে গিয়ে জনসাধারণের কাছে প্রচার ক'রতে হবে। এই জন্যই মনে হয় কৃষি বিভাগে একান্ত অভাব রয়েছে এই যে এঁদের পলিসি বা প্রোগ্রামকে কার্য্যে পরিণত করার জন্য লোক নাই।

তারপরে এর কোন পলিসি বা প্রোগ্রাম আছে কি না? আমার ত আছে বোলে মনে হয় না। আমি যা পড়ে দেখলাম তাতে পেলাম একজন ডিরেক্টর অব এগ্রিকালচার রয়েছেন, আর একজন Live Stock Expert রয়েছেন, আর একজন রয়েছেন Agriculturel Engineer এবং আর একজন রয়েছেন এগ্রিকালচারাল কলেজের প্রিন্সিপ্যাল। এঁরা যে কি পলিসি ঠিক করেন এই বাংলাদেশে কৃষিকার্য্যের উন্নতির জন্য তা আমরা দেখতে পাই না এবং আমার ধারণা যে তাঁদের কোন পলিসি নাই। আর কোন পলিসি এবং প্রোগ্রাম না থাকার দরুণ তাঁদের দ্বারা কোন কাজও হয় না।

যদি কোন বিভাগের উদ্দেশ্য ঠিক না থাকে, তাহলে সেই বিভাগ কিছুতেই কোন কার্য্য করতে পারে না। এখানে আমি একটী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম করতে পারি—ধরুণ কংগ্রেস প্রতিষ্ঠান। কংগ্রেস প্রতিষ্ঠানের একটী উদ্দেশ্যে রয়েছে এবং সেই উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে এই যে, তারা স্বরাজ লাভ করতে চায় দেশের জনসাধারণের জন্য। কিসের দ্বারা—না, বিধিসঙ্গত শান্তিপূর্ণ বৈধ উপায়ের দ্বারা। এবং সেই স্বরাজ লাভ করবার জন্য কতকগুলি programme করেছিল। সেই programme হচ্ছে এই যে সাম্প্রদায়িক ঐক্য তাদের ভিতর প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়া দরকার, অস্পৃশ্যতা বর্জিত হওয়া দরকার, নারীদের উন্নতি হওয়া দরকার এবং যারা আদিম অধিবাসী রয়েছে তাদের উন্নতি হওয়া দরকার। এই ধরণের কতকগুলি programme রয়েছে। শিল্প সম্বন্ধেও দেখতে পাই যে প্রত্যেক শিল্প যা উন্নতি করেছে, তারও এই ধরণের programme রয়েছে। কিন্তু কৃষিবিভাগের কোন programme আছে ব'লে মনে হয় না। আমার মনে হয় যে কৃষিবিভাগের জন্য একটা Board of Agriculture হওয়া দরকার। মন্ত্রী-মহাশয়ের অধীনে কৃষিবিভাগের উপরস্থ কর্ম্মচারিদের নিয়ে এবং যারা বে-সরকারী মত প্রতিফলিত করে, এমন সব member দের নিয়ে একটা Boad of Agriculture হওয়া দরকার। এ রকম Board of Agriculture বিলাতেও রয়েছে। এই Board of Agriculture থেকে যে policy and programme laid down হবে, সেটা যদি কার্য্যে পরিণত করতে হয়, তার জন্য প্রত্যেক মহকুমায় এবং থানায় লোক নিযুক্ত করা দরকার। প্রত্যেক থানায় যদি ৫০৲ থেকে ৭৫৲ টাকা খরচ করা যায় এবং সেই টাকা খরচ করে যদি কর্ম্মী নিযুক্ত করা যায় এবং সে সমস্ত কর্ম্মী যদি এমন হয় যে তারা শুধু চাকরির খাতিরে যাবেনা, যারা দেশকে ভালবাসে, যারা বহুকাল ধ'রে দেশের সেবা ক'রে আসছে,—সে মুসলীম লীগ থেকেই হোক, কংগ্রেস থেকেই হোক, Progressive Coalition Party থেকে হোক, তাতে আপত্তি নেই—এ রকম কর্ম্মী নিযুক্ত করলে ভাল কাজ হবে এবং আমার মনে হয় ২৫৲।৩০৲ টাকা দিলে ভাল কর্ম্মী পাওয়া যাবে। তাদের যদি

বলা হয় যে রাজনীতির কথা বাদ দিয়ে, মুশ্লীম লীগের সঙ্গে কংগ্রেসের ঝগড়ার কথা বাদ দিয়ে, শুধু কৃষিবিভাগের কাজ তারা করুন—তাহলে খানিকটা কাজ এগুতে পারে।

আর একটা policyর কথা আমি বলি। বাংলাদেশের যে সকল জায়গায় এক ফসল হয় সেখানে পাঁচ বছরের plan ক'রে দুটো ফসল করবার চেষ্টা করতে হবে। প্রথমে এটা কার্য্যে পরিণত করে তারপরে যদি এই policy ধরি যে, যে সমস্ত জায়গায় arable land রয়েছে অথচ কোন ফসল হয় না, সেখানে যদি কৃষি কার্য্য চলে, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় ৫।৭ বৎসরের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের এই দারিদ্র্যের অবসান হতে পারে। আমি এই কথা বলে উপসংহার করছি যে, আমাদের লোক দরকার, আর policy ও programme দরকার।

Mr. HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the delay in passing the Bengal Markets Regulation Bill, 1941.

Sir, with the inauguration of the new Constitution in 1937 the party that came in power to function it gave its serious thoughts to bring in various ameliorative measures considered to be of immediate economic relief to the agriculturists. The party then in power has done much within a period of four and a half years but still there are much to be done. I am sure, Sir, more things could have been done but for the obstructionist tactics of the then strong Opposition. So we could not make progress up to our desire which was hampered a great deal by the Opposition.

Sir, among the various grievances and difficulties of the agriculturists that were felt by us are the difficulties of sale and purchase of agricultural produce in markets and fairs. Tyranny of the Zemindars and the Mahajans, to some extent, has ceased to exist on account of the operations of the amended Tenancy Act and Money-lenders Act, though they need further amendments for its total extinction. But the excesses of the proprietors of fairs and markets still do exist.

Sir, it is common knowledge that the markets for the agricultural produce suffer from various sorts of disadvantages, defects, malpractices and irregularities; such as market charges and allowances levied by owners and dealers; dissimilarity of scales; weights and measures; unjustifiable and illegal discounts and deductions; various tolls levied by hangers-on of the market, interlopers, servants of the owners of the market and market employees and so on. So it was the decision of the then Coalition Government to bring in a legislation to put a stop to such excess. As a result of this a piece of legislation, namely, the Bengal Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1939, was introduced and referred to a Select Committee on the 19th December, 1939.

But, Sir, when the Bill emerged out of the Select Committee a vehement objection from the vested interest of this House, particularly from the members now supporting the Government, was raised to the passing of the Bill on various frivolous and flimsy grounds. It went so far as to question expropriation of rights with regard to some of the sections of the Bill. Sir, ultimately the Bill was dropped and a new one, viz., the Bengal Markets Regulation Bill, 1941, was introduced and passed in the Assembly on the 20th August, 1941, with changes of a substantial character. Though the stings that stung the interested persons have been removed from this Bill, the present Ministry has hopelessly failed to get the Bill passed into an Act so far this session in the Council.

Sir, the present Ministry is the product of a misalliance of the previous opposition. The enchantment of office has brought strange bed-fellows together. The custodian of agriculture and the agriculturists is a born landlord having opposite interests. The agricultural Bengal has little confidence in such a Minister who has been surrounded by suspicious environments.

Sir, whatever might be the political creed, if any, and personal interests of the Hon'ble Minister, the agricultural Bengal demands the passing of the Bill into an Act and its operation immediately.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion on the failure to formulate and adopt a comprehensive policy of agricultural improvement including improvement of seeds, manure, crop selection, marketing and financing of agriculture.

During the last few days of budget discussion we have drawn pointed attention to various aspects of nation-building work which have not been properly looked into mainly on account of the failure to have comprehensive schemes. But, Sir, so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned the degree and immensity of the failure know no bounds. I am not aware how far this is due to the responsibility of the Hon'ble Minister in charge, the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca. I know that he has been for the last few days very, very busy with many other impotrant matters, but I trust that he would have at least some time to apply his mind to this most urgent demand in the country. (Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: That he will.) From the budget we find that this year the budget estimate is less than the revised by nearly Rs. 4 lakhs. While some other Departments of a non-nation-building character have absorbed large sums of money, Agriculture has had to

suffer a cut to the tune of Rs. 4 lakhs. Important schemes have been omitted in the coming year. Schemes like agricultural demonstrations have suffered a set-back and, Sir, the expenditure on account of seeds of substitute crops in lieu of jute has had to be curtailed. So also it is noticed that the provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for the replacement of diseased sugarcane by fresh cuttings had to be abandoned.

Such being the evidence before us one feels extremely unhappy about the nature of administration of the Agriculture Department, and we submit that the time has come when the Government should start a sort of enquiry into the working of the entire Agriculture Department and to the formulation of a comprehensive scheme for rural and agricultural uplift. Sir, the points that I have noted in my motion are simple, and so many volumes have been written on the same and so much has been spoken on the floor of this House and outside that I hardly need to take the time of the House in dilating upon them separately, and, specially because, Sir, you have been watching me as to the time I have been taking in these matters.

Sir, with regard to one matter I would like in particular some emphasis to be laid, and that is the question of increasing the productivity of every piece of land in the country. We have had long debates, acrimonious discussions, with regard to land revenue. It is my considered opinion and I suppose I shall be borne out by various sections of the House that unless the quality of land and production are improved, no amount of improvement in the land system would help the poor cultivator. If you read the volumes of our Land Revenue Commission Report you will find ample evidence from experts that will go to show that the deterioration in the conditions of our peasantry is as much due to the fall in the productive capacity of the soil as, possibly, due to the iniquitous land system. If these two problems are not simultaneously taken in hand, it will be impossible to achieve the improvement of economic condition of the masses of our country. Agriculture is still the occupation of nearly 90 per cent. of our population and to give them an occupation which is economically justifiable stupendous efforts are nooded. We have on previous occasions explained that to effect improvement in agriculture improvement in irrigational facilities and improvement in public health are necessary. And not long ago—it was only last morning —the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department had demonstrated how the absence of co-ordination between the different departments of nation-building work has been responsible for deterioration in the condition of work in one department. This is probably true also of the Agriculture Department, for, Sir, unless irrigational improvements are secured, unless public health is properly enquired into and improved health is secured the peasantry of Bengal cannot possibly improve their agriculture. We

are thus in a vicious circle: we do not possess good health because we cannot have good food and because we cannot have good food we cannot have good health and as a result we cannot produce good crops. Therefore, Sir, this is a vicious circle which is going on. I submit most respectfully and with all the emphasis I can command that Government should now come forward with a comprehensive scheme for agricultural improvement so that this vicious circle may be broken.

Sir, in the rural areas, day in and day out, we find the same old methods continuing: implements are as old as ever: the seeds the agriculturists ordinarily use have hardly improved. We have not got any improvement in the methods of manuring; we have not had any improvement in the irrigational facilities; we have not got any improvement in the communications to bring the agricultural produce to the market; nor have we got arrangements made as yet for improved marketing facilities. Sir, these are the points I would like to lay emphasis upon and I would like to hear the Hon'ble Minister in charge on each of these points, and if it is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister in charge to give a comprehensive idea today it would be our humble request to him to issue a White Paper, as he has been in the habit of issuing, explaining the various things that he proposes to do. And in formulating a policy and in issuing that White Paper I must humbly beseech him not to hold out mere tall promises as some of his colleagues in the Cabinet are in the habit of doing.

The other day, Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister had said that it was his privilege to hold out promises. I am afraid, there are other members in the Cabinet who are also, as we find, very adept in holding out tall promises. Sir, I am not thinking of raising acrimonious matters.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: But promises are being fulfilled by the present Ministry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mrs. Murshed may say so, but she will certainly bear me out that not long ago the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and Civil Co-ordination in dealing with a strike that was going on in one of the medical institutions in Calcutta, promised that he would personally look into the grievances of those students of the Campbell Medical School and the boys on this assurance being given by both Mrs. Murshed and the Hon'ble Minister in charge had resumed their normal work, but not only the promises have not yet been fulfilled but, Sir, those boys are still being pursued and penalised and in the case of some of the House Staff who have been suspended no order for withdrawal of the suspension has yet been passed. I saw in the *Statesman* yesterday a notice given inviting applications for House Staff presumably for A.R.P. work but probably to substitute

some of the unfortunate House Staff who wanted to protest against the high-handed manner in which the Superintendent of the Campbell Medical School was dealing with the matter. Sir, these are the usual tactics of some of the Ministers who are cornered into an unhappy position. Let us not have from the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca such tall promises. We want substantial work, and I hope he will be in a position to assure the House that he will introduce such improvements in agriculture as are within reasonable possibility of execution within a certain time.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: He will do that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He as well as his colleague Mrs. Murshed may say so, but Mrs. Murshed must know that so far, although we have been assured about the affairs of the Campbell Medical School, nothing has been done in the matter and the boys are entertaining their grievances and it would not be surprising if the whole of Bengal is thrown into an ugly spectacle of strikes.

Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Department to publish results of research and demonstration to agriculturists.

Sir, the basis of all agricultural progress is experiment. Organisation for demonstration and propaganda, if not based on research, comes to no avail.

Sir, there is an Imperial Department of Agriculture with a Research Institute at Pusa in Bihar. The results of the research work are published in the form of scientific memoirs and bulletins. The Institute also publishes "The Agricultural Journal of India" and the "Journal of the Central Bureau for Animal Husbandry and Dairying in India".

There are Provincial Departments of Agriculture but there is the lack of sufficiently close touch not only between Pusa and the Provincial Departments but also between the Provincial Departments themselves. Had the Departments been in closer touch with Pusa they would have been in closer touch with each other. There are still rooms for co-operation between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in regard to agricultural research. Promotion of research and the provision of information are the only ways in which substantial assistance can be given to agricultural progress. Agricultural research can be of no help to the cultivator until its results are given to him in a form in which they become a part of his agricultural practice. In the Provincial Agricultural Department there is a Director, some Deputy Directors of Agriculture, the Agricultural Chemist,

Economic Botanists, Fibre Expert, Live Stock Expert, the Agricultural Engineer and other subordinate staffs. Along with other duties they are doing research and experiments. Some of their schemes are financed by the Imperial Council of Agriculture.

Let us now see how the Agriculture Department is publishing and disseminating agricultural knowledge to the cultivators. *Krishi Katha*, a bi-monthly journal of the Department, is published and about 3,000 copies are distributed. Besides several matters relating to agriculture and livestock are sent to *Banglar Katha* for publication.

Leaflets, pamphlets and bulletins in the light of the latest investigation and research were drawn up and published towards the end of the year. In consideration of 90 per cent. of the population being cultivators or dependant on cultivation and the small number of journals, leaflets, etc., that are published, it can easily be imagined that the mode of publication adopted is quite insignificant. Besides, illiteracy among the cultivators is so widespread that printed matters can give them very little help for improvement of agriculture. Ocular demonstration is the only means of convincing the cultivators of the advantages of agricultural improvement. The department is attempting to take some steps in this direction also. There are several union board farms and demonstration centres. Here cultivation is carried on by the cultivator himself from start to finish under the supervision of the agricultural demonstrator. When new implements are tried, these are lent without any charge. When the advantages of improved seeds and manures are demonstrated, these are given free in the first instance. The advantage of this method is that as the whole work is done by the cultivator himself, he can realise the true value of the improvement which is being demonstrated. But the number of these demonstration centres and union board farms is so small that only a negligible section of cultivators get the advantages of demonstration. The Agriculture Department should note that the field for demonstration and propaganda is as vast as that for agricultural research. The department should give more attention to demonstration work so that each union board in the province may get its advantages.

The Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, permits the formation of societies for the improvement in any direction of the economic interests of their members. The Agriculture Department may utilise co-operative societies for disseminating knowledge regarding agricultural improvements. The co-operative staff can also help demonstration work if they are given a short course of training. In Bengal Agriculture and Co-operative Departments are non-co-operating with each other. They are not in touch with each other. Co-operation between the departments will be of much help in demonstration work and in the

dissemination of agricultural improvements. Bombay, Bihar and Orissa may be cited by way of example of co-operation between the Co-operative and Agriculture Departments.

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the policy of Government in maintaining some highly paid officers, who have failed in evolving a planned scheme for development of the agricultural industries and consequent increase of production and in running the department in a way that does not touch the masses.

Sir, I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the urgency of organising the cultivators for the purpose of increasing the production of food crops and the cultivation of long-staple cotton, with a view to meet the food problem arising out of unemployment of a vast number of people on account of war conditions.

Sir, the last great European war and the present world war have revealed to us the danger of dependance on foreign supplies in the matter of food and raw materials. Today it is recognised that agriculture is the premier national key industry which can no longer be neglected. Improved agriculture ensures an adequate supply of food and its reaction upon industries is very, very important. It increases the purchasing power of the rural masses and in this way it leads to an improvement in the economic condition of the masses and raises their standard of living. But, Sir, the outturn per acre in this country is excessively low. At best it is often one-third or one-fourth of what is obtained in other countries, and the scope of extensive cultivation in this province is very, very limited. The better lands have already been brought under cultivation and the greater portion of the less fertile lands yet remains to be broken up, but it is not possible without irrigational facilities.

Therefore, Sir, the solution of the problem which confronts us today lies in the direction of intensive cultivation on scientific lines. But Sir, if we examine the budget, we find that it betrays a lamentable lack of any planned scheme.

Sir, Rs. 51,52,000 has been allotted under this head. Of this Rs. 35,10,600 has been set apart for regulation of jute cultivation under the Jute Regulation Act, 1940. Excluding the grant for botanical and other public gardens, we have only Rs. 14,03,000 at our disposal. Ou

of this Rs. 14,03,000 under the head "Experimental farm" a sum of Rs. 2,37,700 has been provided and we find the estimated expenditure for the coming year is Rs. 2,37,700 and the receipts expected are Rs. 1,07,000. From the budget figures of 1941-42 according to the revised estimate we find that the expenditure is Rs. 2,36,200 and the receipts expected are Rs. 66,000. In 1940-41 the actual expenditure on account of these experimental farms was Rs. 2,18,513 and the actual receipts were Rs. 66,228.

Now, the cultivator can only be induced to adopt the most up-to-date methods which these farms want him to adopt provided he can be convinced that by following the up-to-date methods he can expect a better outturn. These experimental farms should be so managed that by meeting the expenditure for establishment, a decent income is ensured to the State.

Then, Sir, under the heads (*a*) direction, (*b*) superintendence, and (*c*) subordinate expert staff a sum of Rs. 6,11,000 has been provided. Sir, I for myself fail to understand what these highly paid officers will direct, superintend or supervise except clearing off files from day to day. At least red-tapism must go from the Department of Agriculture.

Secondly, where is the machinery through the medium of which the department may come in contact with the mass of cultivators—actual cultivators? What are the ways and means by which the enthusiasm of the cultivators can be roused? Of course propaganda is a very valuable means of carrying the results of field and laboratory researches to the cultivator, so that he may be induced to apply these methods in the field. Therefore, Sir, if the cultivators are to be induced to give up their old methods and adopt the up-to-date methods, a machinery consisting of demonstrators, if possible one each in every union board, should be set up immediately. The best and most efficient method is to build up from the bottom, but, Sir, it appears the policy of the Government is like putting the cart before the horse. Ninety-nine per cent. of the cultivators do not know that there is a Department of Agriculture maintained by the Government.

Further, having regard to the present crisis, I mean war conditions such a machinery has become urgently necessary and, Sir, this is the most opportune moment for decentralisation of production and distribution. People must be kept alive to the threat of shortage of food-supply and supply of clothing and as the war proceeds this shortage must increase, because imports of food and clothing would not be forthcoming from outside. Sir, the most important part of the work consists in educating the villagers and induce the cultivators to produce more food crops and this requires intelligent propaganda on a wide scale. The responsibility rests on the Government to take the initiative in organising propaganda on a nation-wide scale and devise ways

and means on the basis of a planned scheme to meet the situation which will certainly arise, namely, scarcity of food and clothing as the war proceeds.

With these words I commend my motions to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! কৃষিবিভাগের এই ব্যয়বরাদ্দের ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আমি যা কার্য্যকরীভাবে ব্যবস্থাপক সভার এই অধিবেশনে উত্থাপিত করচি সেই প্রস্তাবটার সম্বন্ধে কিছু বল্‌বার সময় আমার প্রথমেই ছেলেবেলাকার একটা গল্প মনে হয়। গল্পটা এই যে আজ প্রায় ৪০ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে এখন যাঁরা প্রৌঢ় অবস্থায় এসেছেন তাঁদের পাড়াগাঁয়ে গুরুমহাশয়ের পাঠশালায় প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আরম্ভ কর্‌তে হ'ত। যাঁরা সেই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা পাড়াগাঁয়ের পাঠশালায় আরম্ভ কোরেছেন তাঁরা জানেন ৪০ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে পড়াব যা রীতি ছিল সেই রীতি অনুসারে প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে অল্পবয়স্ক তিন চার শ্রেণীর ছাত্র থাক্‌ত। তাদের মধ্যে ছোট ছোট ছেলে, যারা প্রথমভাগ দ্বিতীয়ভাগ পড়ত তারা একখানা বই আর একটা দোয়াত নিয়ে আস্‌ত। কিন্তু উচ্চ শ্রেণীর ছেলেদের পাটীগণিত, স্বাস্থ্যবিজ্ঞান, শুভঙ্করী, ইত্যাদি, কিছু কিছু অন্যান্য পুস্তক থাকত, আর ন্যাকড়ায় একটা দপ্তর্ বেঁধে সেটা নিয়ে আসত। তখন অনেকের স্মরণ থাকতে পারে, হাতের লেখা শিখ্‌বার জন্য তালপাতার উপর লিখ্‌বার ব্যবস্থা ছিল, আর সেটাকে বলা হ'ত পাত্‌তাড়ি। ছেলেরা যখন পাঠশালায় আস্‌ত তখন দপ্তর বেঁধে, পাত্‌তাড়ি বগলে নিয়ে আস্‌ত। ছোট ছোট ছেলে যাদের পড়ায় বিশেষ আগ্রহ থাক্ বা না থাক্ তারা কেবল প্রথমভাগ বা দ্বিতীয়ভাগ নিয়ে আস্‌ত না, তারা কর্‌ত কি, না, বাড়ীর পাঁজী হউক বা অন্য যা কিছু হউক নিয়ে মস্ত বড় দপ্তর কোরে আর পাড়ার তাল গাছ থেকে তাল পাতা কেটে একটা বড় পাত্‌তাড়ি নিয়ে পাঠশালায় আস্‌ত। পণ্ডিত মহাশয় বল্‌তেন, "বাবা! অবগুণে ছেলের পাত্‌তাড়িটা ডাগর!" অবগুণে ছেলের পাত্‌তাড়িটা দেখি এখানে কৃষিবিভাগের ব্যয়বরাদ্দে। এটার মধ্যে খুঁটিয়ে খুঁটিয়ে দেখ্‌লে দেখি যে অবগুণে ছেলের পাত্‌তাড়িটাই ডাগর। ব্যাপারটা হ'ল এই যে, এই বিভাগটা আলোচনা কোরে দেখ্‌লাম এক জায়গায় রয়েছে Special Rural Uplift Work হিসাব কোরে একটু নেড়ে চেড়ে দেখি ভিতরে কোথাও কিছু নাই, Specail Rural Uplift Workএর। সেটা দেখে আমার মনে হয় এই অবগুণে ছেলের পাত্‌তাড়িটা খুব ডাগর। আমার বিশ্বাস কৃষিবিভাগের কর্ত্তারা সাধক রামপ্রসাদের সেই বিখ্যাত গানটার গুহ্যতত্ত্ব বেশ ভাল কোরে উপলব্ধি ক'রেছেন। সেই গানটা এই বোলে আরম্ভ হয়েছে—

"মন তুমি কৃষি কাজ জান না।
এমন মানব জনম রইল প'ড়ে,
আবাদ ক'র্‌লে ফল্‌ত সোণা॥" (laughter)

আপনারা হাস্‌বেন না। একটু হিসাব কোরে দেখুন যে মন্ত্রীদল বা কর্ম্মকর্ত্তারা তাঁদের কাজের দ্বারা দেখিয়েছেন যে তাঁরা এই সাধকের গানের গুহ্য তত্ত্ব উপলব্ধি ক'রেছেন।

কৃষিবিভাগের জন্য প্রায় ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে; একটু খতিয়ে হিসাব কোরে দেখুন যে প্রায় অর্দ্ধেক ২০ লক্ষ টাকা কেবল বড় বড় হোম্‌রা চোম্‌রা ইঞ্জিনিয়ার থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে অফিসার ইত্যাদির বেতনের খাতে ব্যয় হচ্চে। তাতে কেউ অস্বীকার ক'র্‌তে পারবেন না যে এই যে সাধকের লেখা গান 'এমন মানব জনম রইল পড়ে আবাদ ক'র্‌লে ফলিত সোণা' তা কত সত্য। বড় বড় হোম্‌রা চোম্‌রা ইঞ্জিনিয়ার থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে ছোট খাট অফিসার পর্য্যন্ত মানব ক্ষেত্র রয়েছে তাদের মাঝখানে সোণা যে ফলচে সেটা কেউ অস্বীকার করতে পার্‌বেন না। সমস্ত বরাদ্দের অর্দ্ধেক হয়ে গেছে অফিসারদের খরচ। আমি আশা করি যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বল্‌বেন না যে, প্রদেশের বিভিন্ন সহরে, জেলার বিভিন্ন প্রধান সহরগুলির মাঝখানে আদর্শ কৃষি-ক্ষেত্রের নামে যে বড় বড় বাংলো আজ লোকের চোখে লাগে, ২।৪টা আবাদী ফসলে যার খরচ পোষায় না, সেই ফলতী ফসল কোরে বাজারে যে দামে পাওয়া যায় তার চেয়ে ৩।৪ গুণ বেশী পড়তার ফসলের ক্ষেত্রগুলি—special rural uplift work কারণ, এই অফিসগুলো এবং অফিসারদের বড় বড় বাংলোগুলো দেখে মনে হয় এগুলো rural নয় তবে, speciality অবশ্য একটু আছে—আবাদী ফসলের পড়্‌তায় speciality আছে! অন্য জায়গায় অশিক্ষিত চাষীবাসীরা যে জিনিস ৵০ আনা ।০ আনা সের পড়তায় তৈরী করে তার জন্য এই মোটা মাহিনা নিয়ে নামের ভাঁওতা দিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই এগ্রিকাল্‌চার ডিপার্টমেণ্টের অফিসারেরা বিভিন্ন জেলার বড় বড় সহরগুলিতে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরে যে একটা ভাঁওতার সৃষ্টি কোরেছেন সেটা ভাঁওতা নয়, একেবারে রামভাঁওতা। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি প্রথমে এই দিকে আকর্ষণ ক'র্‌ব। বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলায় যেখানে যেখানে এই আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্রের নামে সরকারী বা গরীব পল্লীবাসিগণের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা প্রতি বৎসর ব্যয়িত হচ্চে, সত্যকারের তার যেন সদ্ব্যয় করা হয়। এই টাকাগুলোয় সত্যকারের দেশের উপকার হচ্চে না। আশা করি, মন্ত্রীমহাশয় সেদিকে একটু লক্ষ্য রাখ্‌বেন। বড় বড় ইঞ্জিনিয়ার, বিলাতে, জার্ম্মাণীতে বা আমেরিকায় বা অন্য বিদেশে কৃষিবিভাগের শিক্ষায় পাশ কোরে ডিগ্রী নিয়ে আস্‌তে পারেন, কিন্তু একথা মনে রাখ্‌তে হবে যে পাশ্চাত্যআবহাওয়ার মাঝখানে, পাশ্চাত্য পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থার মাঝখানে যে আদর্শ সফল হয় সে এখানে সফলতা লাভ করতে পারে না। এই ভারতবর্ষের ও বাংলার আবহাওয়ার মাঝখানে, বাংলার পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থার মাঝখানে সেই প্রাণহীন প্রচণ্ড প্রচেষ্টা একেবারে সম্পূর্ণ ব্যর্থ হয়ে চলেছে। তাই আমার বিশ্বাস আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন দিক দিয়ে কৃষিবিভাগের কোন উন্নতি হয় নি। কারণ, কৃষিবিভাগের যাঁরা কর্ত্তা আছেন, কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য যাঁরা দায়িত্ব নিয়ে আছেন তাঁরা সত্যকারের দেশের লোকের কি অভাব—অন্য অভাবের কথা বল্‌চিনা—কিন্তু এই চাষের উন্নতি কর্‌তে গেলে পর কৃষকের এবং কৃষিকার্য্যের সত্যকারের অভাব কি তাঁদের সে বোধ নাই। তাঁদের মাথা ঘুরে বেড়ায় কেবল একটা পাশ্চাত্য আদর্শের চারিদিকে এবং তার অনুকরণের জন্য সেইভাবে বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলার মাঝখানে কতকগুলি আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্র প্রতিষ্ঠিত কোরে তাঁরা চলেছেন।

সময় অল্প; অন্যান্য বক্তারা এ বিষয়ে আলোচনা করেছেন। কোন বাজেটে কোন বৎসরে যে কোন বিভাগের আলোচনার ফলে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়েরা বার বার যে মামুলী জবাব দেন সেই মামুলী জবাবটার কথা বোলে আমি আজকার বক্তব্য শেষ ক'রব। কোন বিভাগের এই রকম বছরের পর বছর আলোচনা করার পরেও কোন উন্নতি হয় না কেন? এ সম্বন্ধে আমার মনে পড়ে হবুচন্দ্র রাজার গবুচন্দ্র মন্ত্রীর কথা। ব্যাপার হয়েছে আমাদেরও তাই। আমাদের হবুচন্দ্র রাজা সাতসমুদ্র পারে বসে আছেন, আর সেখানে ব'সে স্বপ্ন দেখ্‌চেন; এখানে গবুচন্দ্র মন্ত্রীর দল সেই স্বপ্নকে সফল করবার জন্য বসে রয়েছেন। দেশবাসীর সঙ্গে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর প্রাণের যোগাযোগ নাই। ফলে বছরের পর বছর মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যে কোন বিষয়ে একমাত্র জবাব কি দেন? 'না, এ ব্যাপারটা কি জান?' তাঁরা ঠিক এই জবাবই দিয়ে আস্‌চেন, যে কোন মন্ত্রী যে কোন বিষয়ে এই "হিং টিং ছট্‌"। হবুচন্দ্র রাজা স্বপ্ন দেখেছিলেন আর গবুচন্দ্র মন্ত্রীর দল বস্‌লেন রাজার স্বপ্নের ফলাফল কি হবে ঠিক করবার জন্য। লোকজন আসে, কেউ কিছু জবাব দিতে পারে না। শেষ কালে, আমরা বর্ত্তমানে কয়েক বৎসর যা দেখ্‌ছি মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর মধ্যে একজন ছিলেন তিনি বল্‌লেন আমিই জবাব কোরে দিচিচ। এটা আর বুঝ্‌ছ না?

"ত্র্যম্বকের ত্রিনয়ন ত্রিকাল ত্রিগুণ,
শক্তিভেদে ব্যক্তিভেদে দ্বিগুণ বিগুণ,
ত্রিরূপেতে ত্রিশক্তি হয় প্রপঞ্চে প্রকট,
সংক্ষেপে বলিতে গেলে হিং টিং ছট্‌।"

আর সবাই বল্‌লেন—'পরিষ্কার পরিষ্কার।'

বছরের পর বছর যে বাজেটের আলোচনা কোরে চলেছি সেই আলোচনার ফল এই দাঁড়ায় যে মেম্বররা আলোচনা কোরে চল্‌লেন, আর মন্ত্রীরা দাঁড়িয়ে উঠে বল্‌লেন ঐ 'হিং টিং ছট্‌'। আর তাঁদের দলবল বললেন 'পরিষ্কার পরিষ্কার"—

আমার অনুরোধ যেন এই 'হিং টিং ছট্‌' জবাব দিয়ে বাংলাদেশের মনটা প্রসন্ন না করেন।

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan has criticised the policy of the present Government regarding the fixation of acreage for the cultivation of jute during the next year. Sir, in his enthusiasm, my honourable friend Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan has forgotten that he criticised the policy not of the present Government but of the past Government. To show his spite against the present Ministry he has bitten not only his own nose but the noses of all the leaders of his party, I mean Sir Nazimuddin, Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy and Mr. Tamizuddin Khan. If the present Government has done any wrong, it has done by giving a good-bye to the policy of the old Government of selling the secret of the jute policy to make money in the Fatka market. The policy of the old Government was definitely a policy of indifference to the interests

of jute-growers. I shall presently prove my case. Sir, what has happened with regard to the fixation of jute acreage during the present year? I am a member of the Jute Advisory Board. The Jute Advisory Board sat in September last to recommend to Government about the acreage on which jute should be produced in the country. We the majority of the members of that Board recommended to Government for the production of jute only in one-third of the total acreage. Our recommendation was turned down by the past Government of Bengal. The past Government of Bengal entered into a gentlemen's agreement with the Government of India for the production of jute in 5/8ths of the total acreage. They did not care what would befall to the lot of the jute-growers if there were no purchasers. They also did not care to safeguard the interests of jute-growers if shipping facilities were not obtained owing to war conditions in the Pacific and elsewhere. What did the present Government do? The Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture and Industries went up to the Government of India and discussed with them about the necessary acreage of jute production. Thus, the present Government proved beyond doubt to the Government of India that the requirements of the Government of India to supply the orders of the United States of America and the United Kingdom could be met by producing jute in a maximum of 50 per cent. of the area of the total acreage.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Commerce Member of the Government of India was satisfied with the evidence that we could produce before him and he readily agreed to reduce the acreage from 5/8ths to one-half, that is, he agreed to reduce the total acreage by 1/8th. That means the release of six lakhs of acres of land from jute which may well be utilised for paddy cultivation. This result it was possible only for the present Government to achieve, because it felt sincerely for the hard lot of the jute-growers. The most important point to which the previous Government did not give any importance was the question of immediately releasing as much land as possible from jute cultivation because of the shortage of paddy in the country as a result of no rice being any longer imported from Burma. This point was pressed before the Government of India, and the Government of India readily agreed to release as much land as possible from jute cultivation.

Now, Sir, the position is this that by this time the license for jute cultivation on 5/8ths of the total acreage has already been issued and what Government now proposes to do is that propaganda should be made throughout the province and especially in all jute-growing unions for voluntary restriction of jute cultivation. But I am certain that the present Government has got an assurance from the Government of India which the previous Government did not care to obtain from that Government. The present Government has got an assurance from the Government of India that if jute is grown on 50 per cent. of the total

acreage the latter would see that all jute is purchased by the shippers and the mills. And even if jute is not shipped from the shores of Bengal, the Government of India would see that jute was sold and proper price was given to the cultivator. It does not, therefore, matter much if shippers are not able to export jute to foreign countries for want of shipping facilities on account of the guarantee that has been given to us and which is a most notable achievement on the part of the present Government. Another guarantee that has been secured is that the Government of India would see that the price of jute does not fall below a certain standard——

Mr. AHMAD HOSSAIN: What is that standard?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The standard has not yet been fixed. The price of the middle quality of jute has not fallen below the normal level. But if it falls below that level the Government of India will see that the price does not fall below that standard. I can tell the honourable members that this is the first time in the annals of this Government that the Bengal Government has been able to go a longer way than any previous Government towards the fixation of the price of jute.

Now, Sir, I expected that the Opposition whether it belongs to the Official Congress or the Muslim League would table a motion for a reduction in the expenditure on jute activities. Rupees 35 lakhs has been provided towards expenses for the regulation of the cultivation of jute. Honourable members on the other side also know that this work of regulation of jute cultivation can be satisfactorily done at an expense of not more than Rs. 8 lakhs. Why then so huge a sum as Rs. 35 lakhs has been budgeted? I can tell the House that this Budget was not the making of the present Government but was prepared under the aegis of the past Government and the present Government has only dotted the i's and crossed the t's. The estimate of Rs. 35 lakhs was made by the previous Government. The House is already aware that there was a huge waste of public money under this head—at least Rs. 25 lakhs, and money would have been misspent had the old Government been in power at the present moment. I know the reason why so much money has been budgeted under this head because the major part of this Rs. 35 lakhs would go to the pockets of the protegés and the supporters of the late Ministry, and I can tell the honourable members that this estimate will be considerably curtailed. I know that that is a thing that would go to stop the activities of some of the protegés of the late Ministry in making money at the Fatka market, and that is the reason why those disgruntled persons have gone over to the Opposition.

With these words, Sir, I support the Hon'ble Minister in his demand for grant under "40—Agriculture".

Mr. I. A. CLARK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened with great interest to the speech made by my honourable friend, Dr. Sanyal, and especially to the remarks he made on the subject of sugarcane. While paying a tribute to the work done by the Agricultural Department within the limited resources and inadequate staff with which it is supplied, I feel that there is room for improvement in some directions and especially with regard to the manner in which it deals with this sugarcane problem.

It has been said more than once that it is a pity that there are so few white sugar factories in this province, as compared with the neighbouring provinces of Bihar and the United Provinces, although the climate and the soil of Bengal are just as good. There are five sugar factories in this province with a nominal capacity of 500 tons of cane per day or over, and one or two of smaller capacity. I have seen it stated that sugarcane in much greater quantities than these factories can consume is produced within the province every year. This conclusion is arrived at by comparing the crop of sugarcane as estimated by the Agricultural Department with the maximum quantity of cane which the factories in the aggregate can consume. I believe that the crop is over-estimated. The estimate is based on a supposed average yield of 540 maunds per acre and I am sure that the average cultivator seldom gets such a yield It is quite true, however, that throughout the province more cane is produced than is sufficient for the needs of the white sugar factories. Why, then, is it that, with the exception of the 1940-41 crushing season, when large quantities of sugarcane were planted, the white sugar factories have always been up against a shortage of cane? This shortage has been particularly marked this crushing season.

One of the largest of the five factories to which I have referred has a capacity of at least 1,000 tons of cane per day and in a normal crushing season of, say, 120 days it will crush over 32 lakhs maunds of sugarcane. It has already completed its 1941-42 season with a crush of less than 14 lakhs of maunds. The other factories are also short of cane.

The factory with which I myself am connected is fortunate in having a large area of land on which it can grow its own cane and we shall be able to go on crushing for two or three weeks longer, but so far as cane from cultivators is concerned the supplies are already nearly exhausted. If we did not have cane lands of our own we would have had to shut up shop long ere this. A large proportion of the cane grown throughout the province is grown in areas too far distant from the white sugar factories to be of any use so far as they are concerned. It can only be used for the manufacture of *gur*. But, if the

Agricultural Department will take steps to encourage the planting o: sugarcane in areas within an economic distance of the factories, it will do a great deal for the benefit of the cultivators in those areas.

Sugarcane is a money crop. Next to jute it is probably the most important money crop grown in the province. Provided that the all-India sugar situation justified the erection of more sugar factories in Bengal, which, in my opinion, is not the case at present, I would be glad to see further factories springing up and the condition of the cultivators improved but, before we reach that stage, it is imperative that there should be enough cane for the factories that do exist.

I am sorry to say that many of the cultivators obtain a very poor yield of sugarcane from their cane lands. Much could be done by the Agricultural Department in the direction of teaching the cultivator the best methods of cultivation, other speakers have referred to this, and in dissuading him from taking more than one ratoon crop.

But the most important way in which the Agricultural Department can assist the sugar industry in this province, and it must be remembered that the prosperity of the factories and that of the cultivators are bound together, is by the introduction of improved varieties of cane. For some years past the variety of sugarcane known as CO. 213 has been the stand-by and has given very good results. It is easy enough for a cultivator to reserve out of his current crop sufficient seed of this variety for the next year's crop. But CO. 213 is no longer giving such good results as it used to do. It is becoming very susceptible to disease. It is no longer giving the "recovery" which it used to do. Now, this season the experience of all the factories has been that CO. 213 has given a very poor recovery. New varieties of cane have been evolved at Coimbatore and other places which give a much better recovery than CO. 213 is now giving in Bengal but for the cultivator the problem is, "How am I to get hold of a sufficient quantity of seed of those new varieties"? With considerable difficulty we in our factory, I should say our plantation, have been able from time to time to get from the Bengal Agricultural Department sufficient seed of a new variety to plant one acre of land. This should give us in the next season sufficient seed to plant 12 acres and in the season after that 12 times 12 acres, i.e., 144 acres. As we have 3,000 acres of land suitable for cultivation, I leave the House, many members of which, I doubt not, are expert mathematicians, to work out how long it will take me before I can be producing a new variety of cane in sufficient quantities. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Twenty years.) If this is the expeirence of a big cultivator that of the smaller ones must be exactly the same for, although they require much smaller quantities of seed of a new variety, there are a great many cultivators. If there

were more experimental farms and the area of land held by the Agricultural Department were larger more seed of suitable varieties to take the place of CO. 213 could be supplied to the cultivators. Farms should not be merely experimental; they should be able to supply seed and get new varieties going, not only of sugarcane but of other crops as well.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Sir, I rise to say a few words with regard to the policy regarding jute which has been pursued by the present Government. In spite of the eulogies which have been showered by my friend Mr. Biswas in his new role I feel that the present Ministry has not risen to the occasion which was demanded of it. It is a matter of common knowledge when the Government of Bengal fixed the acreage for the next year at 10 annas of 1940 the situation was absolutely different from the situation in which we are at present. At that time Japan had not entered the arena and it was quite obvious that on account of the assurances given by the United States there might be a good demand of jute in the next year. But every one of us knows what radical changes have taken place in the international field at present. In view of the insecurity of the various oceans through which we can export our commodity, in view of the situation with which we are faced and the transport difficulties which have been increasing and which are likely to increase in future, I do not think that the Government is justified in sticking to the 10 annas acreage which was decided in circumstances absolutely different from the circumstances today.

A few days ago the Hon'ble the Chief Minister issued a statement with regard to the policy of Government on jute. I have got that statement before me. I find that the statement is a very halting one. The Government of Bengal is not depending upon the economic forces of supply and demand which will regulate the price of jute in future but it is depending upon the extent of help which the Government of India is likely to give if the price of jute falls below a particular standard. What that particular price is we do not know. We know it for a fact that the price which the Government of India thinks to be the minimum is not the minimum which the people of Bengal think to be right and the Chief Minister should explain to the House as to what is the price which the Government of India thinks to be the minimum price and what is the mode by which the Government of India considers it to be possible for it to come to the rescue of the growers of Bengal in case the price of jute goes below the minimum. I am quite sure that no amount of Government intervention can secure the result which is possible by the free play of economic forces. I am quite confident that the Government in the situation in which we are

today should have taken immediate steps for curtailment of the acreage which is to be grown in the next year. From the statement which the Chief Minister has issued we find that he is perhaps not satisfied with the assurances of the Government of India and he expects to make some announcement in a very near future. It is said in the statement "We are still in communication with the Government of India and in the shortest possible time we will be able to announce our decision". I do not know, Sir, what is that shortest possible time. As a matter of fact the season for growing jute is coming very near, or rather it has already started. Now for the Government to say that it is still in communication with the Government of India to decide upon this issue seems to be that the Government is not serious about the problem, and I am constrained to say that in spite of the fact that we had our grievances about the jute policy which was followed by the past Ministry we must admit that they were more vigorous in the execution of their policy—whether it was right or wrong—than what we find today under the present Ministry.

Sir, I do not wish unnecessarily to criticise the actions of the present Government but I do think that in this case the Government has failed to do its duty.

One thing more. Everybody knows that there is an acute shortage of food supply. As a matter of fact wheat is not available in Calcutta and wheat is sold at the rate of Rs. 17, Rs. 18 and Rs. 20 per maund. Government has not done anything in order to alleviate this condition.

Then so far as rice is concerned we cannot get our supply from Burma and naturally, Sir, there will be serious shortage of food in the near future to come. If the area which is being cultivated under jute is cultivated under food crop that will give more relief to the people of Bengal in the circumstances in which we are at present than the cultivation of jute.

Sir, I have been asked by my friends to suggest that in those lands where nothing but jute could be grown, there jute should be grown. But in the lands on which paddy and other food articles can be grown, such articles should be grown on those lands, because we know what it will mean to us if there is a shortage of food. I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the entire Ministry will give this problem proper attention as this problem is a very serious problem and no amount of hesitation will avail.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my friend, Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan.

In this connection, Sir, I like to point out that the assurances *which the Government of India gave to the Government of Bengal* need much clarification. Some friends from the opposite side have made much of these assurances. But when we study these assurances, we find that they are vague and valueless. Government say that they will come forward to give relief if the price of jute reaches a certain limit. It is quite vague as to what is the limit at which the Government of India will come forward to help. Then again Government say that they will help to the utmost limit. Now, Sir, what is the utmost limit? Will they buy up all jute produced in Bengal at a price which is economic and profitable for the cultivators? Are they going to fix a minimum price at which they will buy? These are questions, Sir, which need elucidation.

The previous speaker, Mr. Jalan, has dealt with these points.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to deal with another point. Bengal is faced with a danger of the first magnitude. In the last war we know that Germany fell on account of vulnerability in food crop and not due to any other reason. Now we see that Bengal is going to be made vulnerable on food front. There is no endeavour from the Government to make Bengal strong on food front. The situation with which we are faced requires that all available land in Bengal should be utilised for growing food crops. Sir, in England and other countries, we hear that all available lands are being utilised for producing food crops and even roofs of houses are being utilised for this purpose, but in Bengal what is Government going to do? As we know, Bengal falls short of rice every year. For 60 million people the rice produced in Bengal is not sufficient. Every year Burma rice to the extent of crores of maunds is imported. That supply we can no more expect. What is Government going to do with regard to that? The Government of India has given assurances, but what is the assurance of the Government of India with regard to food? How will they give relief to Bengal in case of shortage of food?

These are the points, Sir, which require elucidation from the Government of Bengal and the people of Bengal are entitled to know how they are going to be protected at this emergency and critical juncture.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, before replying to the debate on the different cut motions and on different aspects I would like to place before the House certain dates for which I think, I shall be excused. This Ministry came into existence on the 12th of December (interruptions). If you don't want to hear I shall sit down. Why don't you hear me? This Ministry came

into existence on the 12th of December, 1941, and it was finally complete on the 17th December, 1941. Sir, Japan entered the war in the first week of November, 1941. (VOICE: December, December.) (Again there were interruptions.)

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: We have no such time to waste over the historical background of the Ministry.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: And the shipping problem was acute for the last six months. We have taken office for about two months. The members of this House are aware that when this portfolio of Agriculture was offered to me, I wanted to refuse it, the reason being that I had no hand in the policy of the Department and certain things had been done by the late Ministry in regard to the policy of jute which we cannot defend in this House. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Coalition Benches.) (A voice from the Opposition: You can undo it.) Is the House aware that the jute policy of the late Government was conducted by the ex-Finance Minister or otherwise also the ex-Commerce Minister? (Cries of "hear, hear.") Is the House aware that before the war my ex-colleague who was in charge of this Department was going to resign with regard to the quota——(Uproar.) (A VOICE: But circumstances have changed.)

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: The Hon'ble Minister is wasting time about it. We are very much anxious about the shortage of food. We want a straight answer. (Uproar.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you speaking on a point of order?

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: No, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down and hear the Nawab Bahadur.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. My point is whether the policy of the previous Cabinet in regard to the restriction of jute came under the collective responsibility of the Government or was it the individual responsibility of a Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Minister and not Cabinet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter on which you can form your own opinion.

(Maulvi Ahmed Ali Mridha wanted to rise on a point of order.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Chief Minister will speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It seems that it is impossible for the Ministers to speak in this House without interruptions from my friends on the left. I suggest that Ministers need not be asked to speak but to write out a speech and send it to the Press for publication.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow any more interruptions.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: These interruptions show that truth is hurting my friends on the other side.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: You knew nothing in the past.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I know what I am doing and do not require anybody's prompting.

Now, Sir, my friend, Mr. Maniruddin Akhand spoke about jute acreage and jute restriction which the Government have been considering. May I say that I fully endorse his view? I am already considering if it is not possible to revise what has been done in the past and bring the acreage down as far as possible and see if better and more efficient methods at a cheaper cost cannot be adopted for jute restriction. I have already said that it has been decided by the former Minister in regard to jute restriction. Since the Government have come into office it has been felt that the question of shortage of food-supply is not only being felt by the province of Bengal, but also I think by the whole of India. When I had the opportunity of going to Delhi I got into touch with the Minister of Commerce and it was decided that there should be a conference in Delhi with regard to the problem of food production. As members are already aware there are certain articles of food which come from outside the province; for instance Bengal depends on imported wheat, mustard and other commodities which are essential for this Province. It is most unfortunate that other provinces have under certain orders tried to keep control over their food-supply. If the other provinces do that the same thing will be done in Bengal in regard to rice. I quite realise as the honourable members do that the production of rice falls short by 1½ million tons which used to be made good by rice being imported from Rangoon, but since Japan has overrun Burma it is impossible to get such supply from that province. In the circumstances I have already

appointed a committee. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who are the fortunate ones?) A nationwide propaganda for increased acreage is being inaugurated. In addition to make the best use of the acres we have steps are being taken to buy up all the seed known to have been grown from departmental improved seed in order to ensure that all of it is again used as seed. Twelve and a half lakhs for seed has been authorised and a further 3 lakhs for staff, transport cost, storage, etc. We have to go on two types of policy—what may be called short policy and long-term policy. Of course honourable members are already aware that it is very difficult at very short notice to get the production approximate to our needs. With regard to the jute problem and the release of certain jute lands for the purpose of increased production of rice, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will, after I have finished, make a statement before the House. As regards my friend, Dr. Sanyal, I congratulate him on the speech that he has made and I fully endorse most of what he has said. My friend is already aware in 1937 I had laid a certain policy before the Assembly and as long as I was the Minister in charge of this Department that policy was carried out to the letter. I am not aware nor can I say what happened after that and I can assure my friends that since I took charge of this Department again two conferences have been held to try and reorganise the Department so as to make it work for the benefit of the Province. One of two things which I mentioned was this. Unfortunately in Bengal for the extension of the Department we have not got the staff. We have, as you know, already opened an Institute in Dacca for the training of staff. Already that is accomplished. It is always insisted that we should not bring in staff from outside, but if you want to make the Department work properly it is necessary to provide for extra staff. Now that the war is also on it is impracticable to get proper staff.

I also do not deny that the amount of Rs. 50 lakhs is most inadequate for a natoin-building department of a province which depends on agriculture. I hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister will take note that this House demands that more and more money should be spent on beneficial schemes of agriculture. I have got schemes. Only money is wanted. Whenever money is forthcoming, the schemes are there.

With these few words I would request honourable members to withdraw their motions or I shall have to oppose their motions.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: On a point of information, Sir. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to tell me whether the Government contemplate any measure for restricting the export of rice from this province to other provinces in view of the fact that other provinces have put a restriction on the export of their wheat?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi that the responsibility of Ministers is a collective responsibility and it is not open, therefore, to any Minister of the present Government to criticise any policy laid down by the previous Government. At the same time it is open to us to submit facts to the House in order to show that there has been no break in the policy laid down by our predecessors and that there has been such a continuity of policy that those members of the House who had the privilege of supporting the previous Government should be careful in attributing motives to the Ministers of the present Government or carrying their criticisms beyond reasonable limits. I do not wish to be offensive because the problem which we are discussing at the present moment in this House is the problem of problems for Bengal and it is necessary that the combined wisdom of all the members of this House should be pooled in order that a solution may be found of the difficulties in front of us. Sir, I may mention that during the last five years the one thing that appeared and appears to me of great importance is the great, immediate and urgent necessity of taking into consideration all problems relating to jute, laying down a definite policy and pursuing that policy with almost a relentless accuracy. But, Sir, the problems of jute are so very complicated. In some respects they are so very illusive. In some respects they change according to the changing circumstances of the time. So, it is difficult to say that Government should whatever may happen lay down a cut and dried policy from which there can be no deviation. Now it so happens that so far as jute is concerned it is a common saying that Bengal has got a monopoly of jute. What that slogan means I need not discuss at the present moment. But the facts are that in spite of everything, in spite of the earnest efforts of Government and in spite of the earnest efforts of the members of the legislature, the Bengal raiyat does not get somehow the real benefit, the fullest benefit, from the jute which he cultivates.

Now, Sir, I do not wish at the present moment to go into that question. For about one year my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, made a very comprehensive survey of the situation and studied the question relating to problems of jute with assiduity and care for which he deserves the highest praise. As a matter of fact he really turned out to be a jute expert and it was really pleasant to find that even those who were in the market or who were experts in the Government of India could not cross swords with my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, without admitting that he knows practically all that is necessary to know for dealing with the problems of jute. That being the position when the war clouds were hovering in the horizon in the East we felt that a

very difficult situation was in front of us. We were forced by circumstances to negotiate with the Government of India because the Government of India deliberately gave an indication that in case we arrived at any declaration of policy without their consent they will withhold from us whatever help and assistance we had been getting from them and possibly also their sympathy. Now, Sir, some of us undertook the journey to Delhi but nothing very definite was decided. All that we got was that the Government of India agreed to help the Government of Bengal with money or in any other way that experts might decide in order to keep up the price of jute at a certain level. Then, Sir, we found that the war was imminent but at that time fortunately the Commerce Member of the Government of India came to Calcutta and the Bengal Cabinet met him and they had a full-dress debate about the acreage which we were going to fix for 1942-43. There was some amount of difference of opinion but the majority decision after hearing the Commerce Member of the Government of India was that the acreage should be the double of what was decided on last year, namely a ten-anna crop. The principal grounds for this decision were these: the Commerce Member assured us that there would be sufficient demand from the United States to absorb the two-thirds crop and that the demand would really be so high that with the demand coming from the United States and other countries *plus* whatever may be the surplus of previous years, the market would not be dull but there would be a brisk trade and the cultivator would get a fair price for his jute. Immediately after that we issued instructions to our Jute Restriction Officers to issue licences for a ten-anna crop. Immediately after that there was a declaration of war. That upset the whole plan and we put ourselves in communication with the Government of India. Sir, my friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, and Sir Nazimuddin went to Delhi and had long conferences with the members of the Government of India. And when they came back the Cabinet as a whole decided that it would be advisable to accept the suggestion of the Government of India and not to embark on any hazardous enterprise which might end in disaster, when it would not be possible for us to look to the Government of India for any help. After that, circumstances grew from bad to worse and I along with the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca and two or three other Ministers saw the Commerce Member once again and he said that it would be desirable that we should stick to our decision for two-thirds crop because the United States was still of opinion that the demand would be there, the only disturbing factor being the want of transport facilities. And as to that, he assured us that if any untoward circumstances happened they would come to our help. I am sorry I cannot categorically answer the question of my friend, Mr. Jalan, and my friends over there as to

what would be the nature of the Government of India's help. Sir, we discussed that and we felt satisfied that in the event of any difficulty the Government of India would help us. When we came back we found that the situation had become a bit difficult, but I am in a position to say that the Government of India have authorised us to come down from the ten-anna to an eight-anna crop. Now the reason why the Government of Bengal felt that Bengal should grow as much crop as possible consistent with safety is because the Government of India gave us an assurance that they would be able to supply the United States with all the jute that they wanted. That promise was given to the United States and the Government of India did not want to go back on that promise or the promise which had been made on the strength of the decisions taken by the two successive cabinets of the previous Government. Now, Sir, the position is, therefore, this. The Government of India feel that they are bound by a promise which has been made to the United States and they also realise that the position in Bengal is alarming. Therefore, they have consented to allow us to ask the cultivators not to grow more than eight-anna crop but now we are faced with a new difficulty. Licences have gone out for a ten-anna crop. The cultivator does not understand all these licences and all these financial and economic problems. Having got the permission it is only human nature that he will sow as much as he can. All that we can do at the present moment, and that we are doing, is to ask for the co-operation of all sections of the House to tell the cultivator that although he holds a licence for ten annas he must not on any account sow more than eight annas. Sir, it has also been suggested in this connection to take recourse to an ordinance. But I do not know whether we should do that when the Assembly is in session——

Mr. ABDULLAH-AL MAHMOOD: The Assembly met on the 16th February and this matter was probably raised in that very month. It was suggested at that time that Government should consider the question of issuing an ordinance to the effect that one-half of the licence quota should be fixed.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Apart from the fact that when the Assembly is sitting, there can be no ordinance, I do not think that the problem is free from difficulty. But, Sir, what I feel is this. Really the position is an intriguing one and may I suggest that with a view to discuss the whole situation, some of my friends on my right and some of my friends on the left would sit with us (Cries of "No time" from the Muslim League benches). Why not? We can do it tomorrow because we will put before you certain scheme which has got to be considered. Now this suggestion you may or may not accept, but we will extend to you an invitation.

Sir, the position is, as I have said, that the cultivator will be told not to go beyond 8 annas and it is open to him not to sow jute at all and nobody can force him to sow and we will impress upon him the necessity of sowing food crops as much as possible. We will do it in such a way that the cultivator may be enabled to realise the necessity of food crops and the imperative necessity also of sowing as best as he can. But we cannot tell him that he must not sow jute below a certain limit and all that because the Government of India in consequence of our assurance are bound by pledges given to the United States and other countries. That is the difficulty of the situation. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let them buy up.) If that is one of the suggestions you make, I may hear it, but instead of discussing it in the open House, I may discuss it in a meeting this very afternoon——

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: The question is, does the Hon'ble Chief Minister consider that even 8 annas is consistent with safety? He says that we should tell the cultivators that they should grow, say, 8 annas of the jute crop. Ten annas should be brought down to eight annas.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Ten annas should be considered as eight annas.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, may I put a question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister reply if one question is put?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, Sir, I may.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: On account of the declaration that has been made that 10 annas is the quota allowed, the tendency in the market has definitely shown a fall in the price of jute. Is the Hon'ble Minister not aware of it and what is he going to do for that?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As far as I am advised, there is no such tendency at the present moment, but it is something about which I cannot claim to have expert knowledge.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, he cannot advise reduction of acreage because he cannot force the Central Government to comply with the agreement that they entered with the Provincial Government. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister says that reduction will be made up to 8 annas. I think it is the changed situation which has made it necessary for him to make this fresh statement.

Mr. W. A. M. WALKER: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister please inform the House how he proposes to cut down the acreage by two annas when most of the low land crop is already sown?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, may I also ask a question? Has the Hon'ble Minister been able to find out from the Government of India how much jute the American Government wants? If possible, I would like to have an answer in full detail. Another point is, the voluntary effort in the past on the experience of the Government has failed. America or no America, the problem is to save our cultivators and not the American firms. Therefore, voluntary effort and our going into the districts to reduce from 10 annas to 8 annas will never succeed.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the question of saving India is also directly and remotely connected with the question of supplies we can give to the allies for fighting the Axis countries. India does not stand alone and, as I have pointed out to the House, we are still assured by the United States that they will be able to absorb the jute. Whether they will be able to do so or not I cannot say. If they cannot, the only other alternative for us to do would be to declare war on America, but I do not think that contingency will arise. We have got to accept their assurance.

Sir, the difficulty is that the licenses have already gone out for 10 annas crop and most of the lands are already sown. (Cries of "No, no" from the Muslim League benches.) It is sown. I cannot contradict statement of facts coming from my friends who know more of the rural situation than I do. But I may say that it is practically over. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Low land cultivation is over, but in the high lands it is still to come.) Then, of course, there is some hope. We are going to issue instructions and in this particular matter the intention of the Government and the intention of the supporters of Government and of the Opposition are all one and I am appealing for co-operation. By co-operation we expect that we will be able to avert the evil that seems to be in front of us. I cannot say anything further than this. We have issued instructions, we are going to issue a communique and we are going to issue further instructions. We are going to do intensive propaganda and do all we can and I believe that if we all combine, we will be able to produce good results.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—33.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.

Abdullo-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Dr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdus Shakood, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamideddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi (Tippera).
Hamiruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—108.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Ashar Ali Maulvi.
Badruddeja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Edhar, Mr. Upendranath.
Emadul Haque, Kazi.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gladding, Mr. D., C. I. E.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. G.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hashem Ali Khan, The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad.
Morgan, Mr. G., C. I. E.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mustagawasi Haque, Mr. Syed.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Nasser Ali, Mr. Syed.
Norton, Mr. H. R.
Pettinger, Mr. G. U.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Ramiruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Pativram.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sanasiah, Dr.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Joseph Chandra, Rai Bahadur.

Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

The Ayes being 33 and the Noes 108, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Hafizuddin Choudhuri that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Manirudin Akhand that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motions of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs 100, were then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kamalkrishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 50,57,000 under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur of Dacca that a sum of Rs. 50,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary".

Mr. HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,08,000 under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion on the inadequacy of the grant.

Sir, it is useless to comment on a Department which is in charge of a gentleman—I mean the Hon'ble Minister, who by birth, happens

to be quite ignorant of the knowledge of agriculture and the agriculturists. Such a gentleman has been placed in charge of the Veterinary Department—a department which vitally concerns the agriculturists who constitute ninety per cent. of the population of the province.

Sir, ours is an unfortunate country. Hence the importance of this Department has not been realised and it is why this Department has been systematically neglected.

I have read the Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1939-40 which is the latest publication of the Department. In it, statements have been made which are based on truths, half-truths and untruths. I know for certain that there has been no arrangement for maintaining death register for domestic animals in this province. Yet, we find in pages 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the report very definite statement showing the number of deaths from contagious diseases and other causes among animals during the year 1939-40. Sir, the number of veterinary staff is so very limited in the province that they can hardly go round the villages to take such statistics even when their services for preventive or curative purposes are so very rare. I am sure, Sir, the death rate is far greater than what has been stated in the report. Rinderpest in the province has been creating a great havoc. Every year a heavy toll of livestock is being taken away thereby causing immense misery to the cultivators.

Sir, domestic animals and fowls are the only assets of the agriculturists and a pair of bullocks is regarded by him as his only hope for producing "*Dal-Bhat*". So, I urge upon the Department to provide more money to cope with such a devastating contagion. In the Budget estimate we find that provision has been made for the appointment of 22 additional itinerant Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 20 dressers. This is though a bit encouraging but not up to the mark. More surgeons ought to have been provided for medicine both for preventive and curative purposes.

Sir, the contagion of fowl disease has taken a permanent stand in the soil. Some money has been provided in the budget for research only. But its medical side has been totally neglected. Some provision ought to have been made in this direction too. Sir, very little attention or no attention has been paid to the animal-husbandry. This is an admitted fact.

Sir, here I would like to make some suggestions. Attempts ought to be made to gather actual statistics of animal deaths due to various diseases. This can be done through union boards provided handsome remuneration is paid for the labour. One clinical laboratory ought to be established in every district headquarters under the supervision of efficient staff and each thana should have a veterinary dispensary both for preventive and curative purposes. The doctors within the thana

should go round the villages for propanganda work in normal times. They should not charge any fee for attending cases within their jurisdiction. So, a comprehensive scheme on these lines ought to be prepared to eradicate contagion from the country.

With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, the present policy of Government is that the responsibility for the prevention and control of contagious cattle-diseases will rest entirely on Government whereas the local bodies will be responsible for provision of adequate hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of sick and wounded cattle.

Unlike other departments it is not possible to expand the Veterinary staff all on a sudden, for the reason that the Bengal Veterinary College is the only institution which produces Veterinary graduates. Budget grant is accordingly being increased gradually so as to employ sufficient staff as trained officers become available.

In the circumstances stated, I would request my honourable friend to withdraw his motion.

The motion of Mr Hafizuddin Choudhuri that the demand of Rs 7,08,000 for expenditure under the head "41--Veterinary" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibulah Bahadur, of Dacca, that the demand of Rs. 7,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" was then put and agreed to.

The House was adjourned at 11-18 a.m. till 3-30 p.m.

Afternoon Session.

The afternoon session met at 3-30 p.m.

Conveyance Allowance of M.L.As.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before you take up the regular business of the House may I submit to you that we have to come here at 8-30 a.m. and then return at 12 noon and again we have to come here at 3-30 p.m. Are we not in that case entitled to double conveyance allowance?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter which concerns the Finance Minister and I have nothing to say.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Can we not get any assurance from you, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All that I can say is that the matter has been referred to the Finance Department.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

22—Interest on Debt and other obligations.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and other obligations".

Dr. NALINAKSHYA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and other obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion on the method of the issue of treasury bills and consequent increase of burden on the Provincial Exchequer.

Sir, I do not propose to deliver any speech but I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the observations made by the ex-Finance Secretary, Mr. Gladding, on the floor of the House during the general discussion on the Budget as well as by myself during that time. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to deal with the points and let us be satisfied as to how far the present method is desirable as against loans when long-term accommodation is necessary.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, as the mover of the amendment has pointed out, this matter was raised in connection with the general discussion on the Budget. Now, Sir, so far as the wording of this cut motion is concerned, namely, abuse of the issue of treasury bills——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I did not say "abuse". I said "method of the issue of treasury bills".

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: So far as this method is concerned, as was pointed out in connection with the year 1941-42, we had to meet unforeseen expenditure in view of the large amounts of contribution which were made by loan and gratuitous relief to the agriculturists following the heavy cyclone which swept over certain districts in the province. That had upset our calculations

to a considerable extent. If you look at the present year's budget you will find that in the revised estimates for 1941-42 there is an indication of a revenue deficit of Rs. 1,03,00,000, and it is clear that it is not intended that the carry-over of treasury bills will be larger than what is justified in the estimates. We are expecting a crore of rupees——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you taking any loan?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMPRASAD MOOKERJEE: No, treasury bills. Treasury bills are justified, provided they are limited up to one year's currency. And so far as our present intentions are concerned, we do not propose to go beyond one year. If it, however, extended beyond one year, then of course loan would have been necessary. As I explained when giving my reply to the general discussion of the Budget, Government would keep in view the criticisms that have been made with regard to its future policy. If it were a loan on a long-term basis then interest at the rate of even 2 per cent. would have come to two lakhs of rupees per annum for every crore of rupees On the other hand as it is our intention that we shall be able to wipe it off in the course of one year and we would not go beyond one year, I submit it is not an increased burden on the Provincial Exchequer. As I have already said, the attention of Government has been drawn by Mr. Gladding and Dr. Sanyal to this matter and this point of view will be kept before Government, with a view to taking future decisions.

In view of what I have stated I hope Dr. Sanyal will withdraw his motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I will not press it, Sir.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 7,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and other obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The main demand of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that a sum of Rs 7,000 be granted for expenditure under "22—Interest on Debt and other obligations" was then put and agreed to.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Which motion you have just put before the House, Sir? Is it Dr. Sanyal's or is it the main motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal's motion has been by leave of the House withdrawn, and the House has just passed the main demand of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee.

Maulvi ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Sir, I want to bring a matter of paramount importance to your notice. The Hon'ble the Chief

Minister, who, I am sorry, is not present here now, has said that he has taken over on his broad shoulders the responsibilties for looking after the interests of the Hindus of Bengal and the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has taken upon his broad shoulders the responsibilities for looking after the interests of the Muslims of Bengal.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: What does this mean, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is it you are speaking about? I cannot allow that matter to be brought in now.

30—Ports and Pilotage.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,77,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,77,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the urgency of appointing more Bengalees in the Ports and Pilotage Services, specially in the superior ranks.

Sir, the aptitude of Bengalees as a sea-faring nation in ports and pilotage work is well known, and I claim that every service in that department can be properly manned by suitable Bengalees and arrangements should be made without any further delay so that all the services may go to Bengalees only, and in order that this may be achieved at an early date training for Bengalees in every department under this head should be arranged for.

With these words, Sir, I press my motion.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal is labouring under a misapprehension. Probably he has in mind the administration of the Port of Calcutta.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no. I know more about this than the Hon'ble Minister himself does.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I also remind the House that Ports and Pilotage have got nothing to do with the administration of the Port of Calcutta or of Chittagong. We are confined only to Government dockyards and inland steam vessels.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not mentioned the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: But, Sir, if there is any misapprehension that should be removed. As regards the number of appointments we have got only 2 European officers—one is the Superintendent of the Narayanganj Government Dockyard and another is the Surveyor, who is a Government of India officer now on deputation at Chittagong. The Superintendent of Narayanganj Dockyard was appointed in 1936. As a matter of fact there are no other officers—European or even Anglo-Indian. More than 99 per cent. of the officers are Bengalees and I do not think there is any occasion now to consider the proposal made by Dr. Sanyal. If in course of time Indians with sufficient and requisite knowledge come forward, their cases will be considered. I hope Dr. Sanyal will not press his motion.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 5,77,000 for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim that a sum of Rs. 5,77,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage" was then put and agreed to.

36—Scientific Departments.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 30,100 be granted for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am making a slight alteration in the list of business. I will take up "47—Miscellaneous Departments" last of all I will now take up "54—Famine".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I was given to understand that it will be helpful to Dr. Mookerjee if you finish his business first so that he may be relieved for attending to some other important business elsewhere.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was to accommodate Dr. Mookerjee that I made these alterations.

Hon'ble Mr. Banerjee.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine".

Maulana Md. ABDUL AZIZ: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,59,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়—আমি বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের বর্ত্তমান সনের বাজেটে দুর্ভিক্ষ খাতের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ ২,৫৯,০০০৲ টাকা হইতে ১০০৲ টাকা কমাইবার জন্য এক ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছি। এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাবের আলোচনা করিতে যাইয়া আমার বক্তব্য এই যে বাংলা সরকারকে সব সময়েই দুর্ভিক্ষ ব্যাপারে উদাসীন থাকিতে দেখা যায়। Famine codeএ দুর্ভিক্ষ সম্বন্ধে যে সব নিয়ম কানুন আছে তাহা পালন করিতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মোটেই অভ্যস্ত নন। বাংলার কোথায়ও দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিলে Famine codeএর নিয়ম অনুসারে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে "দুর্ভিক্ষ" ঘোষণা করিতে হয়। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাহা না করিয়া শুধু Test Relief রূপে কিছু সাহায্য করিয়া থাকেন। সত্য কথা বলিতে গেলে এই "Test Relief" দ্বারা দুর্ভিক্ষ প্রপীড়িত দুঃস্থ গরীব প্রজাদের খুব কম উপকারই হইয়া থাকে। একে ত Test Reliefএর পরিমাণ এত কম হয় যে তাহা লোকের সংখ্যা অনুপাতে নগণ্য হইয়া দাঁড়ায়। অধিকন্তু এই Test Reliefএর ভার সাধারণতঃ গভর্ণমেণ্ট অফিসারদের হাতে দেওয়া হয় এবং তাহারা স্থানীয় প্রতিপত্তিশালী ২।৪ জন লোককে ডাকিয়া তাদের পরামর্শ অনুসারে টাকাপয়সা ব্যয় করিয়া থাকেন। ইহাতে অনেক সময় অযথা স্থানেও টাকা ব্যয়িত হইয়া থাকে। তাঁহারা নিজেরা দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত স্থলে যাইয়া কোন্ এলাকায় কোন্ স্থানে টাকা পয়সা খরচ করা সমীচীন এতটুকু দেখিতে প্রয়াস পান না। ফলে অনেক সময় প্রকৃত দুঃস্থ ব্যক্তিরা এই সাহায্য হইতে বঞ্চিত হইয়া থাকেন। আমরা পাড়াগাঁয়ের লোক; দুর্ভিক্ষের তীর্থ পাড়াগাঁয়ে আমাদের বাস। আমরা দেখিয়াছি, একটী জিলার অধীনে কোন না কোন এলাকায় দুর্ভিক্ষ প্রায় লাগিয়াই থাকে। এমতাবস্থায় যে ২,৫৯,০০০৲ টাকা দুর্ভিক্ষ খাতে ধরা হইয়াছে, আমার মতে ইহা অতি নগণ্য। প্রতি বৎসর বাজেটে এই টাকার সংখ্যা অন্ততঃ দ্বিগুণ, তিন গুণ বাড়াইয়া সুচিন্তিত ধারায় এই টাকা খরচ করিলে এই টাকা দ্বারা দুর্ভিক্ষ-কালে বাংলার গরীব প্রজাদের কিছু উপকার হইতে পারে। এ সম্বন্ধে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট একটী উত্তম suggestion পেশ করিতেছি। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমার suggestion গ্রহণ করিবেন।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রত্যেক জিলায় একটী করিয়া "দুর্ভিক্ষ কমিটী" স্থাপন করুন। এই কমিটীর অধিকাংশ মেম্বর স্থানীয় বে-সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে নিয়া বক্রি মেম্বরের কোটা সরকারের প্রতিনিধিদ্বারা পূরণ করুণ। প্রত্যেক বৎসর, দুর্ভিক্ষ হোক বা না হোক,

গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রত্যেক জিলায় অন্ততঃ ২০।২৫ হাজার টাকা হিসাবে দিতে থাকিবেন। এভাবে টাকা ক্রমে জমিয়া প্রতি জিলায় একটী "ফণ্ড" প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইবে এবং দুর্ভিক্ষ হওয়া মাত্র সেই ফণ্ড দ্বারা কমিটী দুর্ভিক্ষ-প্রপীড়িত গরীব লোকদিগকে সহায়তা করিতে পারিবেন।

পুনরায় আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেন আমার এই suggestion সম্বন্ধে ভালমত চিন্তা করিয়া তদনুযায়ী কার্য্য করতঃ দুর্ভিক্ষের প্রকোপ হইতে বাংলার দরিদ্র প্রজাদিগকে রক্ষা করিতে মনোযোগী হন।

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,59,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমার আনীত ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে আমার বল্‌বার বিশেষ এই আছে যে, প্রথমে আমি যে জেলা থেকে এসেছি সেই জেলাটা হ'ল বাংলাদেশের নাম করা দুর্ভিক্ষের জেলা। বাঁকুড়া জেলায় দুর্ভিক্ষ বার মাস লেগে আছে। আমি কলেজ লাইফ থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে আজ পর্য্যন্ত কম হ'লেও ৮।৯ টা বড় বড় দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখেছি। সবগুলো গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্বীকার করতে চান না, ৩।৪টা স্বীকার কোরেছেন, কিন্তু দেশের লোক যাকে দুর্ভিক্ষ বলে সে রকম ৮।১০টা বড় বড় work চালাবার সুযোগ সুবিধা আমার হয়েছিল এবং তার অভিজ্ঞতাও আমার আছে। এই রিলিফ ওয়ার্ক সম্বন্ধে আমি বিশেষ কোরে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ ক'রতে চাই এই নিয়ে, যে আমার জেলার মোটামুটি যে কটা টাকার হিসাব দেব তা থেকে বুঝবেন যে বাঁকুড়া জেলায় যে কটা দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছে আর গভর্ণমেণ্ট "নাই, নাই" কোরে যে কটাকে দুর্ভিক্ষ বোলে স্বীকার কোরে খয়রাতী টাকা খরচ করেছেন সেই টাকা দিয়ে ঠিক নিয়মমত গঠনমূলক বা পরিষ্কার একটা স্কীম্ নিয়ে যদি চল্‌তেন তাহ'লে বাঁকুড়া জেলার দুর্ভিক্ষ বন্ধ হ'তে পার্‌ত। আমি যত দূর জানি বা জানবার চেষ্টা করেছি তাতে বল্‌তে পারি বাঁকুড়া জেলার দুর্ভিক্ষ দূর কর্‌বার জন্য সেচ বিভাগ বা কৃষি বিভাগ যে স্কীম দিয়েছে তা পড়ে আছে। আমার নিজের ধারণা আমি একবার সেচ কমিটীর মেম্বর হয়েছিলাম—যখন বাঁকুড়া মিউনিসিপ্যালিটীর চেয়ারম্যান—সেই কমিটীতে স্কীম নিয়ে আলোচনা ক'র্‌বার সুযোগ-সুবিধা হয়েছিল। ইঞ্জিনিয়ারেরা দেখিয়েছিলেন যে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ ক'র্‌লে বাঁকুড়া জেলার দুর্ভিক্ষ দূর হ'তে পারে। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৯০৭ সাল থেকে ১৯৩৮ সাল পর্য্যন্ত যে ৫টা দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছে তাতে ১৬ লক্ষ টাকা gratuitous relief বা খয়রাতী খাতে খরচ করেছেন। এই যে টাকাটা খরচ হ'ল সেটা কোন সুস্পষ্ট স্কীম বা দুর্ভিক্ষ রক্ষা সম্বন্ধে মৌলিক কোন অনুসন্ধান বা গবেষণা না কোরে যেমন দুর্ভিক্ষ হ'ল, লোক হাউ মাউ চাউ ক'র্‌লে, কাগজে লেখালেখি হ'ল, আর অমনি গভর্ণমেণ্ট টাকা বার কোরে খরচ কর্‌লেন। তাতে সাময়িকভাবে লোকের কষ্ট কিছু লাঘব হয় কিন্তু স্থায়ী সমস্যা সমাধানের চেষ্টা হয় না। মোটামুটি দুভাগে গভর্ণমেণ্ট খরচ করেন; এক gratuitous relief আর একটা test relief work, যেমন রাস্তার কাজ, সাময়িক পুল তৈরী

করা ইত্যাদি কাজ। সেদিক থেকে আমি বলব এই রিলিফ মাত্রই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেখানে যা ক'রবেন একটা স্পষ্ট ধারণা রেখে, সেই জেলায় বা সেই স্থানে দুর্ভিক্ষের মূল কারণ কি এবং সেই মূল কারণ যাতে দূর হয় সেই দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে যাতে দুর্ভিক্ষ রিলিফ ওয়ার্ক সম্বন্ধে তাঁরা ভবিষ্যতে তাঁদের পরিকল্পনা স্থির করুন। সেই কথা বলবার জন্য আমার ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করেছি।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Deputy Speaker, Sir,—আমি famine বাজেটের উপর কয়েকটী কথা বলিতে চাই কিন্তু আমি oppositionএর cut motion সমর্থন করিতেছি না।

Sir, বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত লোকদের সাহায্যের জন্য প্রতি বৎসরই famine Budgetএতে টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়া থাকেন। ঐ টাকা দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িতদের সাহায্যে ব্যবহার করার উদ্দেশ্যে famine rule নামে একটী কঠোর, জটিল আইন পাশ করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন। Famine আইনটী একদিকে বলে যে দুর্ভিক্ষ পীড়িতদের সাহায্য করিতেই হইবে, অন্য দিকে কঠোর নিষেধবিধির ইঙ্গিতও রহিয়াছে। আমার অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে বলিতেছি যে এই famine ruleতে District Magistrate'ও Divisional Commissionerদিগকে অত্যধিক পরিমাণ আধিপত্য ও ক্ষমতা দেওয়া হইয়াছে। তাঁহারা যদি দুর্ভিক্ষ, বন্যা ইত্যাদি স্বীকার না করেন, তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও মন্ত্রী-মহোদয়গণ কোন প্রকার সাহায্য করিতে পারেন না। আমি জানি, অনেক স্থলে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়গণ দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত অঞ্চলের দুর্দ্দশা দেখিয়া প্রাণে আঘাত পাইয়াছেন এবং সাহায্য করার জন্য উদ্‌গ্রীব হইয়াছেন কিন্তু District Magistrate এবং Divisional Commissionerগণ তাঁহাদের সহিত একমত না হওয়ায় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়গণের সমস্ত চেষ্টা ও ব্যস্ততা ব্যর্থ হইয়াছে। District Magistrate ও Divisional Commissionerকে famine আইনে প্রাধান্য ও আধিপত্য দেওয়াতেই দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত মরণোন্মুখি-গণের প্রয়োজনীয় অভাব-অভিযোগ উপেক্ষিত হইয়া আসিতেছে। তাই আমি বলিতে চাই যে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট famine Budgetএর টাকা যথার্থরূপে দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িতদের কাজে খরচ করিতে চাহেন, তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে নিশ্চয়ই famine rule সংশোধন করিতে হইবে। আইনের কঠোরতা ও জটিলতা হ্রাস করিয়া Ministryর হাতে ক্ষমতা রাখিতে হইবে। তাই আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে অতি সত্বর famine rule সংশোধন করুন।

Sir, আমি নোয়াখালীর দুরবস্থা সম্পর্কে কয়েকটী কথা বলিতে চাই। বিগত বন্যায় ও ঘূর্ণিবায়ুতে নোয়াখালী জেলার ভীষণ ক্ষতি হইয়াছে। বিশেষ করিয়া, রামগঞ্জ, রায়পুরা, লক্ষ্মীপুরা, বেগমগঞ্জ, সেনবাগ থানাগুলি সম্পূর্ণরূপে এবং সদর থানা, দ্বীপগুলি ও ফেণীর কতকাংশ সমূলে ধ্বংস হইয়া গিয়াছে।

Sir, নারিকেল, সুপারি, ধান, পাট, মরিচ ইত্যাদি নোয়াখালীবাসীর জীবিকা-নির্ব্বাহের একমাত্র অবলম্বন। বিগত ঘূর্ণিবায়ুতে বাড়ীঘর, নারিকেল, সুপারিবাগান এবং বন্যায় ধান, পাট, মরিচ সমূলে ধ্বংসপ্রাপ্ত হইয়াছে, বহু লোকের জীবন নষ্ট হইয়াছে।

Sir, আগামী ২০ বৎসরে নোয়াখালীবাসীর অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থার পরিবর্তন হইবে না ও তাহারা নিজের পায়ের উপর দাঁড়াইতে পারিবে না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে যে কৃষি loan খয়রাতি দান ও test relief দেওয়া হইয়াছে, তাহা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অত্যন্ত কম। কিন্তু, Sir, আমাদিগকে স্বীকার করিতে হইবে যে নোয়াখালীর জিলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট ও বিভাগীয় কমিশনার এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়গণের নিকট হইতে আমরা বঞ্চিত হই নাই—সাহায্য ও সহানুভূতি পাইয়াছি। এইজন্য তাঁহাদিগকে ধন্যবাদ জানাইতেছি এবং আরও সাহায্যের জন্য প্রার্থনা জানাইতেছি।

Sir, রামগঞ্জ, রায়পুর, লক্ষীপুর, সেনবাগ, বেগমগঞ্জ প্রভৃতি অঞ্চলের প্রতি Union এ প্রতি গ্রামে বাড়ীতে বাড়ীতে "হা অন্ন, হা বস্ত্র" চীৎকার ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নাই। হতভাগ্যগণ পেটের জ্বালায় ঘরের টিন, হালের বলদ, অলঙ্কারপত্রাদি সমস্তই বিক্রী করিয়া খাইয়া এখন মরিতে বসিয়াছে। বীজধানা ও হালের বলদের অভাবে শতকরা ৬০টী হালচাষ বন্ধ রহিয়াছে। ইহার পরিণাম-ফল অত্যন্ত ভয়াবহ। বন্যা-পীড়িত অঞ্চলের লোকেরা খাজনা ও কৃষিলোনের কিস্তি দিতে পারিতেছে না। অবস্থার পরিবর্তন পর্যন্ত, খাজনা ও লোনের কিস্তি আদায় স্থগিত রাখা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে একান্ত উচিত।

Sir, বন্যাবিধ্বস্ত নোয়াখালীর লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের জন্য, শ্রমিকদের জন্য, অন্ধ, আতুর, নিরাশ্রয় স্ত্রীলোকের জন্য, প্রচুর পরিমাণে কৃষি লোন, test relief ও খয়রাতি-দানের উদ্দেশ্যে টাকা মঞ্জুর করা বিশেষ প্রয়োজন হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। অন্যথায়, আগামী চাষ বন্ধ থাকার দরুণ ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দেওয়ার ও অন্নাভাবে লোক মরিবার ভয় রহিয়াছে। আমি পুনঃ পুনঃ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের ও famine বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের সুদৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি যাহাতে অতি সত্বর নিরপেক্ষ নীতিতে সমস্ত জায়গায় relief work আরম্ভ হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বিশেষ অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

• **The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the famine-stricken and famished Minister of a province need not necessarily have sympathy with the views of the famine-stricken and famished members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly who have dealt with the question of famine. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We are not famished.) I am glad, Sir, my honourable friend Dr. Sanyal has said that he is not so famished. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Ministers may be, but not the members).

I shall first of all deal with the observation made by my friend Maulana Md. Abdul Aziz. The Maulana referred to the question of setting up a committee for the purpose of distributing whatever bounty the Government could distribute to famine-stricken areas. This is a point of view which this Government will bear in mind.

I next refer to the observation made by my honourable friend, Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy. Mr. Roy is perfectly right that Bankura

is one of those districts which have suffered from famine very often and he was taking a long view of the matter when he wanted this Department to link itself up with agriculture and industry supported by irrigation. Well, Sir, the Government has, with the disposal of very limited resources under its control, been able to do something in regard to tank improvements. The improvements are not sufficient, I admit frankly, especially for the Western Bengal districts where drought is a great enemy to crops, but this again is a question which must receive the consideration of Government.

But I do not quite agree with my friend Mr. Golam Sarwar when he says that he has no sympathy with the cut motions moved by my friends opposite. I have very great sympathy with the underlying principle of the cut motions introduced. Famine is a question on which it cannot be said that it concerns this Government or that Government. This is not the question at all. It is a question which must necessarily touch every Government whether it is the present Government or it is the future Government of tomorrow. Sir, I shall certainly take note of the points mentioned by my friend with reference to Noakhali. I am fully aware of the fact that the people of Noakhali have suffered not only from flood but they suffered also from cyclone, and Government certainly will do all that lies in its power today to help the distressed people of those localities. The limited nature of the demand of Rs. 2,59,000 in this year's budget need not worry anybody, for this reason that last year a similar budget demand was made but when the distress became acute, Government had to spend more than Rs. 26 lakhs for the purpose of alleviating the distress due to famine and, God forbid, if such a calamity happens again because nobody in the world has any control whatever over the vagaries of Nature, then I am sure whether it is this Government or some other Government it is bound to come to the rescue of the distressed.

With these observations, Sir, I hope my honourable friend in the Opposition will be good enough to withdraw his cut motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maulana Abdul Aziz, do you want to withdraw your motion?

Maulana Md. ABDUL AZIZ: Yes, Sir.

The motion of Maulana Md. Abdul Aziz that the demand of Rs. 2,59,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy that the demand of Rs. 2,59,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that a sum of Rs. 2,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation allowances and pensions, 55A—Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues, and 83—Payment of commuted value of pensions not charged to revenue.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs 83,75,600 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions, 55A—Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues and 83 Payment of commuted value of pensions".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 83,75,600 under the head "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions, 55A Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues and 83—Payment of commuted value of pensions" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the general policy of Government in the matter of grant of pensions and policy in refusing pensions to officers, the sons and daughters of whom were convicted of dacoities or murders believed to be connected with subversive activities.

Sir, I beg to draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one case, viz., the case of Miss Suniti Chaudhuri who was convicted and sentenced to transportation for life in a murder case. It is a well-known fact that her father was an employee in a Government office. There has never been any allegation of any complicity of the father in the case against his daughter. Miss Suniti Choudhury has since been released. There is, therefore, no reason why Government should refuse pension to the father of Miss Suniti Chaudhuri. I want to know the policy of the Government in these matters. I also want to know whether they are in a position to declare that they are prepared to grant any pension to the father of Miss Suniti Chaudhuri. This is a reasonable request and I hope that it will be complied with.

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta has in his motion referred to the general policy in the matter of grant of pensions. Of course, he has not said anything with regard to this question. I don't suppose that he suggests that this general policy should be abandoned.

As regards the second clause, he asks what is the policy in refusing pensions to officers, sons and daughters of whom were convicted of dacoities or murders believed to be connected with subversive activities. I am to say that there is no policy of the Government in respect of this matter. In fact, I find that during the last ten years there has been only one case and that is the case to which my honourable friend just now referred. There is no application for reconsideration now pending before Government from the gentleman who was a former Government servant.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: There was an application previously made which was refused by the past Government.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: What I mean to say is that there is no application now pending before Government and if any application comes which will contain facts which would justify a reconsideration of the matter, I shall look into the question. But the application must come before Government before I can say anything.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

(No objection was raised.)

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 83,75,600 under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions, 55A—Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues and 83—Payment of commuted value of pensions" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that a sum of Rs. 83,75,600 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions, 55A—Commutations of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues and 83—Payment of commuted value of pensions" was then put and agreed to.

56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 24,49,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses".

The motion was put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 14,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 14,09,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous", be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the policy in the matter of expenditure on account of State prisoners and detenus.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that the number of security prisoners under the Defence of India Rules up to the 30th of September, 1941, was 529. After that the number has certainly considerably increased but allowances have been granted to dependants of 20 such prisoners only. A large number of applications praying for the grant of allowances have been rejected Even in the case of 20 such prisoners the maximum amount that has been allowed to each is Rs. 35. That will appear from the answer to question No. 143. Again in answer to question No. 71 it was admitted that there were many students who were going for examination and had asked for examination fees and for the purchase of text books. That request was refused. So, I beg to submit that the amount that has been allotted for State prisoners and detenus, viz., Rs. 10,000, is extremely inadequate and Government policy in this matter should be revised. Allowances have been refused in almost all cases. Previously in the year 1914 when people were detained under the Defence of India Rules detenus were granted large amounts as allowances and as a matter of fact all the detenus had been granted allowances. So far as the policy of the present Government is concerned it seems that the policy needs to be revised. There are a few more cases in which allowances should have been granted and out of 529 cases of security prisoners—I think the number has gone up to 700 now—only in 20 cases allowances have been granted and the allowances granted are also extremely meagre. So the policy of the Government should be changed. As regards the students they should be supplied with examination fees as well as text books.

With these few words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, really this is a matter which the Hon'ble Home Minister should reply to. But I can say this. The honourable member has referred to the general question of policy and this matter is now under the consideration of

the present Government. One of the Hon'ble Ministers—the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee—has been requested to prepare a scheme as to how the grievances which have been mentioned in general by the honourable member can be substantially met, so that the honourable member may take it that the matter is receiving the consideration of Government.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: When will the scheme be ready?

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Before we meet next time, I hope.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We may not meet at all.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I hope that in view of what I have said the honourable member will withdraw his motion. The matter is receiving the serious attention of Government

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 14,09,000 under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that a sum of Rs. 14,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" was then put and agreed to.

Deposits and Advances.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,41,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest-free Advances".

The motion was put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances bearing interest.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 90,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, may I have your permission to move the motion standing in the name of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 90,13,000 under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion on inadequacy of the advances for the working of the Bengal Tanks Improvement Act, defects in the matter of working the scheme under the said Act and failure of Government in removing these defects. I move this motion only to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to these things.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 90,13,000 for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the rules and procedure followed in advancing loans on various accounts.

Sir, from a study of the Budget at pages 141 and 142 of the Red Book it will be found that during the previous years certain sums of money were allotted for advance to local bodies and other institutions but the loans could not be fully utilised, and when this matter was taken up in the Public Accounts Committee it was revealed that these amounts could not be utilised because of certain rules which prevented local bodies from fully coming up to the standard laid down to enable the Government to pay the money. We have been insistently demanding that certain measures be taken by Government to enable the utilisation of these sums that are allotted from year to year. I am particularly drawing attention to two items—one is the loan to the Tollygunge Municipality of Rs. 75,000 for the year 1941-42 which could not be utilised. This sum was allotted to them to enable the construction of an embankment to prevent the flooding of a very important portion within Tollygunge municipality. The Municipality could not come up to the standard laid down by the Government and as a result the people are suffering. Secondly, you have at page 142 another item of Rs. 1,00,000 allotted under rural water-supply out of which only Rs. 21,000 could be utilised in 1941-42. We have again provided another lakh of rupees for the coming year. Sir, I apprehend that unless the rules are modified and the procedure followed in advancing loans is changed it would be impossible for Government to make proper use of these sums allotted and it may be difficult for the people to get the services of which they are in great need.

Sir, I would also draw attention to another class of loans, for example, that under the State-aid to Industries Act. Here, Sir, the complaint is otherwise. It is not that in this particular case the Government found difficulties in advancing loans because the local bodies or any institutions could not come up to the standard laid down;

on the contrary, we find that in cases of this particular class of loan sufficient attention was not given, because the rules are such that the Committee or the Board of Industries could dispose of the applications under certain arrangements and they could advance money for schemes which may or may not be fruitful. Here, Sir, another kind of amendment is called for. I would like the Government to examine the various rules, conditions and procedure for advancing loans, and I hope the present Ministry will apply their mind to facilitating the utilisation of public fund in larger amounts in nation-building services and at the same time they will maintain a proper check on the expenditure on such accounts.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, the motion moved by Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji or rather on his behalf by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta refers to the working of the Bengal Tanks Improvement Act. It appears that so far as this administrative Act is concerned, it is based on the reports and demands which are received from the District Officers, and if in any particular instance it has led to hardship and that is brought to the notice of the Government, Government will certainly look into the matter. Sir, what actually happens is that the Revenue Department here in Calcutta proceeds on the demands which are made by the District Officers who in their turn act on the basis of the provisions of the Act.

Then, Sir, with regard to the motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, the subject-matter raised here is very vast, viz., rules and procedure followed in advancing loans on various accounts. Here the matter presents some difficulty. I have had occasions to deal with a number of cases where I felt that what Government was going to do might cause hardship to certain institutions. What happens is that the loan is sanctioned subject to certain conditions which are to be fulfilled by a particular institution and if those conditions are not fulfilled it is hardly possible for Government to make the grant in spite of the fact that the conditions have not been fulfilled, simply because the interest of the public would otherwise suffer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You should relax the conditions.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The question of relaxation has been considered in some cases, and the Departments concerned recommended that the conditions should be relaxed. But, Sir, the attitude of the Finance Department generally is this: if it were considered essential by the Department that those conditions must be fulfilled before the loan was made, then the Finance Department must insist that the conditions must be fulfilled. On the other hand, if relaxation is thought desirable then the conditions should not have been fixed so rigidly in the first instance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: *Your contribution in kind or labour might be substituted for money contributions.*

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is a proposal which has also got to be further considered, for that also may lead to consequences which the honourable mover himself might be anxious to avoid. As I have indicated this matter is receiving our attention. I have already seen the remarks made by the Public Accounts Committee in connection with the deliberations of which both Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal and Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri played a very large part. I hope it will be possible for Government to adjust the rules in such a manner which will ensure that minimum financial control which is necessary in such cases and which will be at the same time consistent with the public interest. In view of this, Sir, I hope Dr. Sanyal will withdraw his motion.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 90,13,000 for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 90,13,000 for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that a sum of Rs. 90,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest" was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,18,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

Sir, the cut motions here relate to the policy of the Labour Department and any reply which has to be given will be given by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় সহকারী সভাপতি মহাশয়। আমরা লাল বইএর ১০৬ পৃষ্ঠায় দেখতে পাই প্রায় ৯০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে; তার বিশ্লেষণ করা হয়েছে সবুজ বইএর ৩৭৩ পৃষ্ঠাতে। কিন্তু বিশ্লেষণ কোরে দেখা যায় যে শুধু লেবার অফিসের এবং ঐ ডিপার্টমেণ্টের অফিসারদের মাহিনা ছাড়া আর কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই।

শ্রমিক আন্দোলন যখন জগতের প্রত্যেক দেশে বিশেষ একটা স্থান পেয়েছে এবং প্রত্যেক দেশের শাসকমণ্ডলী শ্রমজীবীর উন্নতিকল্পে বদ্ধপরিকর হ'তে মনোনিবেশ করেছেন সেই সময় আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্য বাঙলা দেশের প্রভুদের কাছে এই বিভাগের প্রতি নিদারুণ অমনোযোগিতা ও অবহেলা দেখে বিস্মিত ও নিরাশ হচ্ছি। বর্ত্তমান সচিব সংসদের সৃষ্টিকালে আমি ব্যক্তিগতভাবে একটা বৃহত্তর আশা পোষণ করেছিলাম। প্রোগ্রেসিভ পার্টির নাম দিয়ে কাজ আরম্ভ করা হয়েছিল; ভেবেছিলাম এঁরা সত্যই সকল কাজ প্রোগ্রেসিভ প্রোগ্রামে করবেন, ও "নবযুগের" নব অভিযান সুরু হবে। কিন্তু যখন দেখ্‌লাম শ্রমিক বিভাগের ভার দেওয়া হ'ল একজন অতি ভারাক্রান্ত নিরীহ, বয়োবৃদ্ধ ভদ্রলোকের উপর, যিনি জীবনে কোন দিন কোন শ্রমিক আন্দোলন বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট থাকেন নি তখনই এই প্রোগ্রেসিভ দলের prognosis স্থির হয়ে গেল। এই বিভাগের ভার দেওয়া উচিত ছিল একজন তেমন ব্যক্তির হাতে যিনি শ্রমিক নির্ব্বাচক-মণ্ডলী থেকে নির্ব্বাচিত হয়ে এসেছেন, যিনি শ্রমিকদের সঙ্গে মিশেছেন, তাদের জন্য শক্তি, সামর্থ্যও, ও অর্থ ব্যয় করেছেন, এমন কি জীবনাতিপাত করেছেন। আর সে রকম লোকের অভাবও প্রোগ্রেসিভ কোয়ালিশান পার্টিতে ছিল না। বর্ত্তমানে যাঁরা প্রভুপাদসেবী-দলে আছেন তাঁরা প্রতি কার্য্যের জন্য পূর্ব্বেকার সরকার সহযোগী দলের নামে দোষ দিয়া থাকেন। আমি কি জিজ্ঞাসা ক'রতে পারি স্যার নাজিম বা আমরা কেহ এ কথা বোলে এসেছিলাম কিনা যে যেখানে উকীলের প্রয়োজন সেখানে ডাক্তার বসাবেন, আর যেখানে ডাক্তারের প্রয়োজন সেখানে উকীল বসাবেন? যদি আজ সত্যই প্রোগ্রেসিভ কোয়ালিশন দলের ইচ্ছা থাক্‌ত শ্রমিক বিভাগের উন্নতি কোরে তোলার জন্য, বাংলার এই নির্য্যাতিত, সব-হারা যারা ধনীদের জন্য আবহমান কাল থেকে রক্ত দিয়ে আসছে, কোন প্রতিদান না পেয়ে, তাহ'লে তাদের জন্য তাঁরা এই প্রহসন কোন দিন কর্‌তেন না। আরও সব চেয়ে বড় আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় এই যে, যে দলের সাহায্য এবং প্রলোভনা পেয়ে গত মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে ধ্বংস কোরে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর গঠন হয়েছে—সেই ফরওয়ার্ড ব্লক—তাঁরাও এই ব্যাপারে backward হয়ে পড়েছেন। তাঁদের মধ্যে যাঁরা শ্রমিক নেতা আছেন তাঁদের সাহসিকতা, উদ্দীপনা ও তেজস্বিতা দেশময় সকলেই জানেন। কোন মায়ামন্ত্রে আজ তাঁরা সুপ্ত হয়ে পড়েছেন? চোখ থেকেও যাঁরা দেখেন না তাঁদেকে হয় বল্‌তে হবে অন্ধ, না হয় বল্‌তে হবে ভণ্ড। আমার প্রত্যেকের কাছে এই অনুরোধ বাংলায় সেই Devil of the tamarind tree এবং আমাদের বর্ত্তমান সচিবমণ্ডলী বিশেষ কোরে যে দলে শ্রমিক নেতার অভাব নাই সেই দলের বর্ত্তমান দল-পতি যেন সত্বর এ বিষয়ে সুচিন্তা করেন। না ক'রলে যা হচ্চে তাতে ভবিষ্যতে শ্রমজীবীদের বিশেষ ক্ষতি ও ভয়ের কারণ আছে। এখনও যে কিছু কম হচ্ছে তা নয়। চারি দিকে যখন প্রলয়ের লেলিহান জিহ্বা সকলকে গ্রাস কর্‌তে আসচে, যখন আমরা

চীৎকার ক'র্‌চি "বাঁচাও, বাঁচাও, সাহায্য কর, সাহায্য কর," তখন শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়ের সাহায্য এদের মধ্যে সব চেয়ে বেশী প্রয়োজনীয় ব'লে মনে হয়। অথচ আমরা দেখ্‌তে পাচ্চি তাদের জন্য, তাদের ছেলে-মেয়ের জন্য, তাদের ভবিষ্যতের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্চে না। তারা কেন সাহায্য ক'র্‌তে আস্‌বে? আজ ইংরাজের শ্রমিকেরা, রুশিয়ার শ্রমিকেরা, চীনের শ্রমিকেরা প্রাণ দিতে প্রস্তুত হ'তে কুণ্ঠিত নয় কেন? ওরা জানে যখন যুদ্ধ ক'র্‌ব তখনও আমাদের সকল রকম সুখ সুবিধা দেওয়া হবে। আমাদের ছেলেমেয়েদের, পরিবারের ভাবনা ভাব্‌তে হবে না, এবং ম'রে গেলেও ভাব্‌তে হবে না। আর আমাদের? উপমা দিয়ে বলি শুনুন। বেঙ্গল পোর্ট ট্রাষ্টের employeeদের evacuationএর সময় যখন এখানে পাঠান হ'ল তখন তাদের ব'লে দেওয়া হ'ল কলিকাতায় যাও, সেখানে তোমাদের এখানকার চাকরী বজায় থাক্‌বে; এই চাকরী continue করা হবে। সেখানে যাও, তোমাদের প্রভিডেণ্ট ফণ্ড, পেন্‌সন্ ইত্যাদি যার যা পাওনা সে গুলি সব দেওয়া হবে। তাহারা বিলাতী প্রভুদের আগে জাহাজে চাপিয়ে এবং স্নান ক'রিয়ে দিয়ে যখন অতি কষ্টে এখানে এসে পৌঁচাল তখন এখানকার পোর্ট কমিশনারের তরফ থেকে বা employers এর তরফ থেকে কি করা হ'ল সেটার খবর আপনারা অনুসন্ধান ক'রে দেখ্‌বেন। এই হ'ল তার ব্যবস্থা, প্রভুদের কথার এই মূল্য? শ্রমিকের বুকের এই সব ব্যথা আমরা যারা শ্রমিকের কাজ করি তাদের বোলে দিতে হয় না, তারা আজ সজাগ এবং চক্ষুষ্মান্। "তেঁতুল গাছের ভূত" এখনও ভাবেন ডাঃ ব্যানার্জী, বা শিবনাথ ব্যানার্জী বা বঙ্কিম মুখার্জী বা ঐ ভূতের সহযোগী এক বন্ধু—আমি নাম ক'র্‌ব না—(A Voice—"নাম বলুন")

মিঃ দত্ত মজুমদার বোধ হয় এদের মাতিয়ে তোলে, এদের ব'লে দেয় তোরা বেশী মাহিনা চা, বা যুদ্ধের ভাতা চা, অতএব ওরা আন্দোলনকারী। ওদের বেঁধে রাখ; কিন্তু ভূত তুমি ভূত! তুমি যদি মানুষ হ'তে তাহ'লে চোখ খুলে দেখ্‌তে পেতে এই ধুলোমাখা, শতছিন্ন বস্ত্রপরা মানুষগুলো, আজ সারা ভারতে বিপ্লব এনে দিয়েছে, নূতন ধরণের শাসনের সৃষ্টি করেছে। তাদের বড় আর চায়ের ভল আজ চেনা যায় এবং বেশ স্পষ্ট বোঝা যায়। সময় এসেছে সময়ের সঙ্গে তাল মিলিয়ে চলার, সময়ের পরিবর্ত্তনকে মেনে নেওয়ার। যারা রাশিয়াকে পরম শত্রু ব'লে মনে ক'রত তারা আজ তাকে বন্ধু বোলে গ্রহণ কোরে নিজেদের ধন্য মনে ক'র্‌চে। এতেও কি ঘুম ভাঙ্গেনি?

এর পর আমি শ্রমিকদের কতকগুলি দাবীদাওয়া পেশ কোরে আমার বক্তব্য শেষ ক'র্‌ব। এগুলি বিশেষ কোরে জাহাজীদের তরফ থেকে করা হয়েছিল। গত শ্রমিক মন্ত্রী তাদের অভাব অভিযোগ মোচনের জন্য চেষ্টা কোরে অনেক ক্ষেত্রে সফলও হ'তে পেরেছিলেন; যেমন, জাহাজীদের 25% permanent increment of wages এবং 75% war-bonus ইত্যাদি দেওয়া হয়েছিল। বাকী গুলা এখনও হয় নি। তাই প্রোগ্রেসিভ্ দলের নিকট নিবেদন কর্‌তে চাই তাঁরা সে বিষয়ে দয়া কোরে progress করুন। এ বিষয়ে বল্‌তে চাই আমরা যদি কেউই 5th columnist না হই এবং সকলে অন্তরে অন্তরে যুদ্ধের সুফল কামনা ক'রে থাকি তাহলে স্বীকার ক'র্‌তে হবে যে যদি জাহাজ চলার বিঘ্ন ঘটে তবে যুদ্ধে কোন মতেই জয় লাভ হ'তে পারে না। যদি

' চলাচল ঠিক রাখ্‌তে হয় তবে জাহাজী শ্রমিকদের দিকে বিশেষ দৃষ্টি রাখা
ন। আমাদের বাংলা সরকার হয় ত বল্‌বেন এ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের
কিন্তু তাঁদের কাছে গেলে সব সময় এর প্রতিকার পাই না। অথচ recruitment
ংলা দেখে এবং এখানে যদি শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে অশান্তি হয় তাহলে বেঙ্গল পুলিশেরই
হয়, Central Policeএর নয়। এই দুই সরকারের মধ্যে এখনও ঠিক হয় নি কে
ী আন্দোলনের কর্ত্তা এবং কোথাকার প্রোগ্রেসিভ দল কি ক'র্‌বে। তবুও আমার
ন্ধ অনুরোধ বাংলা সরকার যেন এই দাবীগুলোর সম্বন্ধে ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয়
ও এখানকার employerদের নিকট সুপারিশ করেন। আমাদের দাবী যা ছিল
ই :—

(১) যুদ্ধের ভাতাসহ বর্ত্তমানে যে একশ টাকা বেতন বৃদ্ধি হইয়াছে তাহা চির-
চাই।

(২) বেকার ভাতা চাই।

(৩) চাকরী অবস্থায় হাস্‌পাতালে গেলে সেই সময়ের তলব চাই।

(৪) জাহাজে ৮ ঘণ্টার বেশী কাজ করিবে না।

(৫) জাহাজ ডুবিলে পেটীর খেসারতের জন্য উপযুক্ত ক্ষতিপূরণ চাই।

(৬) যুদ্ধে মরিয়া গেলে মৃত জাহাজীর বিধবা স্ত্রীর জন্য নিম্নপক্ষে ১৫৲ হইতে
টাকা উর্দ্ধে ২৫৲ টাকা বা ৩০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত ভাতা চাই।

(৭) এতিম নাবালক ছেলেদের জন্য ম্যাট্রিকুলেশন ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ড পর্য্যন্ত পড়ার যাবতীয়
এবং চাকুরীর ব্যবস্থা চাই।

(৮) মৃত জাহাজীর বয়স্ক ছেলেদের যাহাতে চাকুরী দিয়া প্রতিপালন করা হয়
ব্যবস্থা চাই।

(৯) নাবালিকা মেয়েদের বিবাহ না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত মাসিক ১০৲ টাকা হারে ভাতা

(১০) মৃত জাহাজীর মা বাপ প্রত্যেকের জন্য ১০৲ টাকা হারে মাসিক ভাতা

(১১) লেট্‌ বাই লেট্‌ চাকরী চাই।

(১২) বেশী পরিমাণে রসদ ও মালিকদের নিকট হইতে কাজের কাপড় (য়ুনিফর্ম)

(এ সম্বন্ধে বল্‌তে চাই ইউরোপীয়ান সীমেন্‌দের যেরূপ দেওয়া হয়, ইণ্ডিয়ান
দের সেইরূপ দেওয়া হউক।)

১৩) পেন্‌সন চাই।

(এখানে শুনে দুঃখিত হবেন যে এমনও আছে যে একজন সারা জীবন ১২।১৪
থেকে ৫০/৬০ বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত চাকুরী করার পর জাহাজ ছাড়লে তার চাকুরির
i এক সঙ্গে করা হয় তখন দেখা যায় ১০ বছরের বেশী চাকুরী হয় নি। কোম্পানী
নিয়ম করা হয়েছে ২৫ বৎসর total না হলে কোন রকম gratuity দেওয়া হবে
এখানে একটা মস্ত অভাব আছে।)

(১৪) সর্ব্ব প্রকার জুলুম, বিনা বিচারে নথী খারাপ করা, এক তরফা বিচারে বিদেশের র সামান্য অপরাধে জাহাজীদের জেলে পাঠান, ঘুষ ও সর্ব্ব প্রকার দালালী বন্ধ চাই। (বিদেশে অনেক সময় এমন বিচার হয় যে ওরা কোন রকম কিছু বল্‌লে বল্‌বার কিছু থাক্‌লে ওদের ভাষা কেউ বোঝে না, তাদের ভাষাও ওরা বোঝে না; ভাষা না বোঝার জন্য বিচারও ঠিক হয় না।)

(১৫) ভারতবর্ষের যে কোন বন্দরে সাইন্ করিয়া শফরে গেলে পুনরায় ভারতীয় র ফিরিয়া আসিয়া ডিস্‌চার্জ না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত অসুখ হইয়া বিদেশের হাস্‌পাতালে । কালীন, কিম্বা জাহাজ ডুবাইয়া বিদেশের বন্দরে বা বোর্ডিংয়ে থাকাকালীন, কিম্বা কর্ত্তৃক বন্দী হইয়া থাকা কালীন কোন অবস্থাতে জাহাজীর তলব বন্ধ হইতে পারিবে (A voice—"Useless") আমার মাননীয় বন্ধু কুমিল্লাবাসী বল্‌লেন "Useless" ল্লা থেকে জাহাজী হাজার হাজার গিয়ে বন্দী হয়ে থাকে, মাহিনা পায় না, খেতে না। তবু'ও উনি বল্লেন useless. আমি বল্‌তে চাই এই সমস্ত অভাব অভিযোগ ক পুলিশ কমিশনারকে জানান হয়েছে, কেন না এক কলিকাতা বন্দরেই অন্ততঃপক্ষে লক্ষ ৩ লক্ষ জাহাজী প্রতি বৎসর যাওয়া আসা করে এবং তাদের উপর অন্যায় াচার হয়, জুলুম হয়। তার দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ বল্‌তে চাই

Report on the working of the Lathi House system and the conditions ailing amongst seamen and labour in the port of Calcutta for the od 19th July, 1940, to 31st December, 1941, published by Bhattacharjee, Deputy Commissioner, Port Police, Calcutta.

আর একটা কথা আছে। 1939এ published হয়েছিল, D. Bhattacharjee, uty Commissioner of Police, publish করেছিলেন। তাতে এ রকম ভাবের ব্যাপার ত পাওয়া যায় যে, তাদের উপর জুলুম কোরে, পেটী চাপা দিয়ে, বেঁধে রেখে দিয়ে, হ্যাণ্ডনোট দস্তখত করিয়ে তাদের কাছ থেকে টাকা আদায় করা হয়।

An amendment of the Calcutta and Suburban Police Act for securing rol over Lathi Houses was tabled and passed in the Upper House is awaiting passing by the Lower House.

আইনটা এখনও কেন পাশ হয় নি বল্‌তে পারি না। এটা আপনারা আগাগোড়া দেখ্‌বেন। আর একটা তুলনা

Bribery and extortion by the serangs are still in existence. Five hese cases were successfully prosecuted in Court and in the remain- cases the offenders were made to refund amounts which came up Rs. 4,870 in the aggregate.

কয়েকমাসের ভিতরে সামান্য ৫টা caseএ ঘুষ যারা নিয়েছিল তাদের কাছ থেকে য়ে নিয়ে দিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছিল; তার পরিমাণ হচ্ছে ৪,৮৭০৲ টাকা। এখন ত পারেন কত লাখ লাখ টাকা বেরিয়ে যায়। পুলিশ কমিশনার অনেক চেষ্টা কোরে দস্তুর জুলুমকারী, অত্যাচারী ঘুষখোর দালালদের শাসনের ব্যবস্থা করচেন।

আমি সচিবমহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি এদিকে আকর্ষণ করি। বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী আসবার পরে আমি যে ভাবে ব'লেছিলাম সে ভাবে এখনও কিছু হয়নি। যাঁকে এই বিভাগের চার্জ দেওয়া হয়েছে তাঁকে দোষ দিই না, কারণ তিনি এ সব বোঝেন না। আজকাল এমন কতকগুলি ইউনিয়নের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে যাতে এই সমস্ত দালাল ঘুষখোর লোকগুলোকে support করা হচ্চে। আমার অনুরোধ, যেন অতি সত্বর তার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়। এই নূতন সচিবের দ্বারা যদি না হয় আরও একটী মন্ত্রী বা পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী বাড়ান হউক এবং যেন এমন লোককে করা হয় যিনি সত্যই এই লেবার মুভমেণ্টে কাজ ক'রেছেন বা তাতে আছেন, এবং তাদের দরদী। তিনি নিজে যেয়ে প্রত্যেক labour movement এ যার যেখানে দরদ, যার যেখানে অভিযোগ, সেখানে যেয়ে তদন্ত কোরে এগুলি দূর করার চেষ্টা করুন। ঘুষখোর অফিসারের রিপোর্টের উপর নির্ভর করবেন না। আমার আরও অনুরোধ তিনি যেন এইটুকু না দেখেন, যে আমি কোন পার্টির লোক, যে ইউনিয়ন আমার পার্টির বিরুদ্ধে তাকে ভাঙ্‌তে হবে, সেটা আমার পার্টির পক্ষে সেটাকে রাখ্‌তে হবে। আমি বলত চাই নিরপেক্ষভাবে সত্যসত্যই যদি এই শ্রমিকদের উন্নতি করতে চান তবে তাদের জন্য যেন কিছু ব্যবস্থা করেন।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, are you moving motions Nos. 8, 9 and 11 together?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Yes, Sir The other motion relating to dearness allowance will be moved by Dr. Banerji.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the administration of Trade Disputes Act.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of price control.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion about the labour policy.

The motion regarding payment of adequate dearness allowance to workers, which stands in my name will be moved by my esteemed colleague Dr. Suresh Banerjee.

Sir, when the last Labour Minister whom we used to call the belabouring Minister was removed, we heaved a sigh of relief. And

when recently we got an announcement by the Chief Minister, we were very pleased indeed, when he said: "Let Labour have confidence in us. We shall look into their grievances".

So far, Sir, I have got to say in favour of the present Ministry, but I have a list, a long list of protests, grievances and demands. Starting with the first announcement by the Chief Minister which we welcome very much, I am sorry to tell this House that it has not been fully implemented. It arose in connection with the strike in Budge Budge of jute workers numbering about 30,000. Cases against some of them have not yet been withdrawn and the assurances either directly or indirectly given have not yet been implemented. This is with regard to the announcement itself.

Now, Sir, there is very little time for us to discuss this subject. I am, therefore, trying to give a list of all the protests that I want to raise.

My first protest is that we have not been given a full Minister but only a half. We are not satisfied with that. Secondly, Labour is not shown as an independent item in the budget discussion and is placed in "47—Miscellaneous." Labour is not really so unimportant as that. When we know that today in the Cabinet in England about half the members come from Labour and when even the Leader of the House of Commons, who has been sent to India to settle the very complex and complicated problems of India, is also a Labour member, to relegate Labour in this province to "47—Miscellaneous"—not "49" mind you—is rather curious. Thirdly, arising out of that, even "47—Miscellaneous" demand or grant is not moved by the Labour Minister but by the Finance Minister. We have no grievance against him, because money is to come from his pocket, (A VOICE: Our pocket, not his pocket.) yes, from our pocket but under his control. I have nothing to say on that. But I would only like to say that this demand should have been moved by the Labour Minister, so that he could say what he wanted to do about Labour, and after listening to him we could criticise him and say what we have got to say. Now, Sir, he is a dark horse. Please excuse this expression. We are in very great difficulty to criticise him or his policy or what it is likely to be.

My fourth protest is that for the budget discussion 15 days were allotted by His Excellency the Governor but we are getting only 35 to 45 minutes for the whole discussion on Labour. Formerly, even in previous years, we used to get almost a half day which amounted to one and a half hours or more.

My fifth point is, and this is the real point I am coming to, that the policy with reference to Labour must be guided by the Government of India and with reference to that Sir Feroz Khan Noon has announced the policy which is to be followed with regard to Labour,

especially in these days. That was also after a Conference of Labour Ministers and others interested in Labour, and he announced very definitely about two months back that there should be periodic conferences with the representatives of Labour, but it has not been followed here.

Sixthly, my protest is that though the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, which is the Provincial Branch of the All-India Trade Union Congress, is recognised by the Government of India—by Sir Feroz Khan Noon and other representatives of the Government of India who suggested holding periodic conferences with this body, the Government here has not yet held any conference with the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress. We must not look to what has been done during the last five years for the reason that we do not want to go into the past. We are encouraged to hope that a new chapter will start and, therefore, I am making this suggestion.

Seventhly, no Standing Committee has been appointed with representatives of the employees and employers both from this House and also outside to advise the Hon'ble Minister on labour problems. As has been said just now by my esteemed friend, the Hon'ble Labour Minister had no past experience about this movement. Even if he had, it is not possible to look into the diverse grievances of seamen, railwaymen, jute workers and all the rest of them. For any man, even if he had been a labour worker or a trade union worker, it would be necessary to have a body of advisers to advise him. For this a Standing Committee is absolutely necessary. And on this Standing Committee, the members of this House, the members of the Progressive Coalition Party, the members of the Opposition, members of the European Group who represent the employers' interests and also members from outside, those who are interested in the cause of labour should be taken and a Standing Committee should be formed as early as possible. After all, the advice of this Committee is not binding on the Government but sitting in his own chamber, the Hon'ble Minister will have a picture of the whole situation and he will be able to know sitting in his chamber how Labour is feeling and what they want to say and also how the capitalists react to their suggestions or proposals.

Eighth, a Standing Committee has to be formed but if a conference, periodical or otherwise, is held with the various representatives of this House, it will be helpful. Immediately after the Ministry is formed, I and other friends, those who represent Labour in this House approached the Hon'ble Minister and made the suggestion "Please call a conference, an informal conference, of the members representing Labour in this House and in the Upper House so that we may have a chance of acquainting you with the problems that we want you to solve" but that has not been done.

Ninth, the demands of the workers as we understand them were formulated in a mass meeting of 50,000 workers as early as 4th January in the Howrah maidan. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress but not one of the resolutions passed there has been given effect to.

Tenth, the charter of the demands which was formulated after mature consideration by the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress has not been given effect to.

Eleventh, everybody knows that there is a Trade Disputes Act. That is to be applied when there is a likelihood of trouble between employers and employees but that Trade Disputes Act has been very rarely utilised even when labour has insistently demanded it. It is to be hoped that a more liberal use of this machinery will be made by the Hon'ble Minister so that the workers may give vent to their grievances before going on strike, and they can utilise the constitutional means of settling the disputes. The demands from the workers repeatedly pressed home previously had no effect and curiously enough in the very few cases where the Trade Disputes Act was brought into operation the recommendations when they were in favour of the workers were not carried out. There may be some technical difficulty or legal difficulty with reference to that because of the Trade Disputes Act machinery but now I am sure Government has certainly power to enforce the recommendations after the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister the other day. He said "We have power to enforce our decision on the employers". I wish to tell the Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Labour Minister that the Labour Commissioner's office which has to carry out these suggestions will want to be encouraged and unless the Ministry vigorously supports the Labour Commissioner and his assistants they also feel their inability to do anything. I draw the pointed attention of the Labour Minister and also the Chief Minister to this aspect of the question. As an example, I may quote the case of the Bally Jute Mill where the Trade Disputes Act was applied. The recommendations are still on paper but it was simply a waste of paper. The District Magistrate of Howrah was the person entrusted with the work of enquiry and three successive District Magistrates carried out that enquiry and submitted their recommendations which came to nothing. It was a sheer waste of time and paper.

Twelfth, no effective steps have been taken to control prices and price control has been hitherto absolutely a farce. Representatives of Labour who are really vitally interested in this problem have not been associated in such committees and I am sure if they are associated in such committees, they would have pressed in their own interests and in the interests of others whom they represent for more effective price control.

(At this stage the blue light was on.)

Sir, I have only so far mentioned twelve items and unless I am given more time, I shall not be able to deal with all the points. I am taking only half a minute for each item.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please go on.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Thirteenth, no steps have been taken to pay any unemployment allowance to the worker. This is very important today because many mills are finding it difficult to go on working. Many jute and cotton mills are finding it difficult to keep all their looms and spinning machines in operation because of the shortage of labour. Therefore, it is all the more necessary that the extra labour should be kept by giving an unemployment allowance in the interests of the Industry. In the interests of the province also, it is necessary to inaugurate the scheme because it is war time and because there is shortage of labour in some of the industries at least.

Fourteenth, no attempt has been made to pay dearness allowance proportionate to the rise in the cost of living to the workers even to those workers who are employed by the Government of Bengal. The railways, Mr. Deputy Speaker, pay Rs. 4-8 as dearness allowance but the Government of Bengal pay only Re. 1 but now it is Rs. 2. Even then, it falls far short of the requirements but I leave this question to be dealt with by my friend Dr. Suresh Banerjee.

Fifteenth, no attempts have been made to set up model rules for service for the subordinate employees and industrial workers of the Government of Bengal and especially those who work in government buildings and look to the comforts of the Ministers. There are no rules regarding permanency of service, casual leave, pension, gratuity, provident fund, etc. Many workers working in Government buildings (Writers' Buildings) have been working for 20 years and more. They are temporary and are not taken on a permanent footing. Although they have 30 or 40 years of service to their credit they do not get a single pie as gratuity or pension. This matter has been brought to the notice of the ex-Labour Minister and other Ministers time and again by the Union concerned and I myself representing that union and in my capacity as a member of this House have officially sent in representations containing some recommendations on their behalf. Somehow, that representation is lost in the archives of Writers' Buildings and no effect has been given to those recommendations. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will immediately look into this question and see that action is taken without much loss of time.

Even the pay and conditions of vervice of the inferior staff of this Assembly (whom the department insists on calling as menials) have not been looked into and the princely sum of Rs. 13 only is considered sufficient for these liveried employees who are to be seen on different

sides of this House and outside. The members of this House, when the House is in session, get Rs. 17-8 a day and even one day's salary of the members is not given to these men for a whole month.

Sixteenth, adequate staff is not provided in the Court of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation and the authority under Payment of Wages Act so that poor workers have to wait for months before their claims are settled. To settle the disputes of the workers quickly when a man is injured and when the employer does not give him his wages, the special courts have been started so that things may be done quickly and at a cheap cost. But, unfortunately, although the court is there to look after the workmen's compensation, the department concerned has not given sufficient clerical staff and other staff and, therefore, workmen have to wait for months and months before their claims are settled.

Then I come to item No. 17, namely, that strikes in some factories have been declared illegal but not lock-outs or dismissals which are in 99 per cent. cases arbitrary and high-handed. Sir, this is an anomaly which must be removed immediately. We saw recently in an announcement that the Labour Commissioner's Department has issued a circular to the effect that only strikes are to be declared illegal but lock-outs are legal. This is a state of things which must be remedied immediately. Justice demands there should be more sympathy shown towards the workers who constitute the weaker and poorer section of humanity but here we find just the reverse of it.

Then I come to item No. 18, namely, that the National Service Labour Tribunal has been always backing the employer and oppressing the workers even when the latter are being treated in an inhuman manner by the employer. This Tribunal did not like the workman to leave his factory with the intention of going over to some other factory. I think here also there should be some definite rules and if any worker wants to go to some other factory for higher wages he should be given a chance. (At this stage the honourable member having reached the time-limit was asked by Mr. Deputy Speaker to resume his seat.)

Sir, I have moved all the motions standing in my name together and am making one speech on all of them. It is quite fair, therefore, that I should be given a little more than the allotted time to deal with my points.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can well understand, Mr. Banerjee, that if I extend the time-limit in this way it becomes impossible for me to bring the whole debate to a close within the specified time. However, I allow you two minutes more to conclude your speech.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Now, Sir, I come to item No. 19, namely, that no adequate steps have been taken to prepare and maintain a reliable index of cost of living of a worker's family budget. Sir, the minimum had been fixed, especially in the Congress provinces, at Rs. 15 a month before the war. But now due to rise in prices in general the minimum wage should be fixed at Rs. 25 a month.

Twentieth, but instead of doing anything of that nature, the employers are in the habit of making compulsory deductions as contributions to the war fund in spite of the repeated assurances on the floor of this House that no compulsion will be exercised.

Twenty-first, then, Sir, the workers are being forced to work extra hours for the A. R. P. without any payment for the extra services rendered.

Twenty-second, then, Sir, there is also the question of providing adequate shelters for workers. In most of the factories no provision has been made for proper concrete shelters against air raids. In most of the factories employers have not made any provision for grains and other necessaries in case public shops are closed due to panic from air-raids. Very little has been done to help the workers to remove their women and children to safer places.

Twenty-third, practically nothing has been done to maintain cretches and rest rooms for babies in those factories where women work in large numbers. There are 50,000 women workers with 15,000 babies.

Twenty-fourth, no attempts have been made for providing for old age and sickness leave for most of the workers.

Twenty-fifth, the Factories Act has not been amended to include all those establishments which employ ten men and where the machines used are not run by steam or electricity

Twenty-sixth, the scope of the Payment of Wages Act and the Compensation Act have not been extended to assistants in shops, domestic servants and to other establishments——

(At this stage the member having reached the further time-limit granted to him resumed his seat.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of the motion is to raise a discussion on the provision for dearness allowance for workers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in all progressive countries, especially during war, Labour is considered as important as the Military but here I find that out of the 16 days allocated for the Budget debate on demands for grants only half an hour has been allotted for the Labour

Department and that also at the fag-end of a hot tiresome day. It is indeed a matter of deep shame, especially for a Government which calls itself progressive. I hope in future at least one full day should be kept apart for Labour.

The most important question that has been agitating the minds of the workers ever since the outbreak of the war, is that of dearness allowance. To definitely settle as to how much dearness allowance should be given it is essential to have a clear idea of the pre-war and the present cost of living indices. To find out the variations in the cost of living, it is necessary to hold occasional enquiries into the working-class family budgets. Such enquiries were held in other provinces, but unfortunately no public enquiry was ever held in this province. Government and individual companies might have had private enquiries on their own account but not much reliance can be placed on the findings of such enquiries, as the report of the Court of Enquiry constituted to investigate into the question of dearness allowance of railway employees clearly demonstrates. In order to have some idea as to what has been the present increase in the cost of living of the workers I have at random taken the pre-par and the present family budgets of some of the workers. I have also gathered the pre-war and present prices of articles from shops in the various labour areas in and around Calcutta. I have also collected some statistics about the pre-war and the present monthly income and expenditure of jute mill workers. If I have had time I would have gone in some detail into these interesting figures, but handicapped as I am as regards time I must content myself with simply stating the pre-war and the present rate of things. In my statistics the pre-war prices mean prices prevailing in August or September, 1939, and the present prices mean prices in March, 1942.

	Pre-war prices.	Present prices.	Percentage of increase.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Food Group.			
Rice (course) (per maund)	3 12 0	5 6 0	66
Rice (Patnai)	3 8 0	6 0 0	71·5
Dal (Arhar) (per seer)	0 2 6	0 3 6	40
Musur (per seer)	0 2 0	0 2 9	37·05
Kheshari (per seer)	0 1 6	0 2 6	66·5
Mug (per seer)	0 2 9	0 4 0	45
Biuli (urud) (per seer)	0 2 0	0 3 0	33
Chhola (per seer)	0 2 0	0 3 3	62·5
Atta (Chaki) (per seer)	0 1 9	0 5 0	185·5
Flour (per seer)	0 2 6	0 6 0	140
Ghee (Buffalo) (per seer) .. .	1 6 0	1 12 0	45
Sugar (per seer)	0 3 6	0 5 6	42
Misri (per seer)	0 5 0	0 7 0	40

	Pre-war prices.	Present prices.	Percentage of increase.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Gur (per seer)	0 3 0	0 3 6	16
Jira (per seer)	0 12 0	1 4 0	66·5
Black pepper (per seer)	0 5 0	0 8 6	70
Red pepper (per seer)	0 5 0	0 7 0	40
Mustard (per seer)	0 3 0	0 4 6	50
Salt (per seer)	0 1 0	0 1 9	40
Fuel Group.			
Coal (per maund)	0 7 6	1 4 0	185
Firewood (per maund)	0 8 0	0 14 0	75
Kerosene oil (per bottle)	0 2 0	0 3 3	62
Matches (one)	0 0 4½	0 0 9	100
Clothing Group.			
Dhooty (ordinary) (per pair)	1 15 0	3 1 0	58
Dhooty (fine)	3 0 0	5 4 0	75
Sari (coarse)	1 15 0	4 2 0	113
Miscellaneous Group.			
Washing soap (per seer)	0 4 0	0 8 0	100
Washing soda (per seer)	0 2 0	0 4 0	100

Sir, I have got comparative prices for other articles also. From these and other figures which for want of time I could not read out certain deductions are inevitable. They are: First, that the average increase in the cost of living since the outbreak of the war has been by 42 per cent.

Secondly, that of the total cost of living, food alone amounts to 72·5 per cent.

Thirdly, that the average increase in the price of food group has been by 62·6 per cent., the increase in the price of the fuel group has been by 105·5 per cent., that of the clothing group by 76·87 per cent., that of the miscellaneous group by 42·5 per cent. and that the average increase in the price of everyday necessities of life has been by 71·85 per cent.

Fourthly, that a weaver earning even Rs. 48 a month cannot make his two ends meet. He runs into ever-increasing debt every month. Justice demands that no worker should have at present an income of less than Rs. 50 a month. In deciding the amount of dearness allowance that should be given, this fact should be taken into consideration.

Sir, I must now speak a few words about the recent amendment by the Central Government of section 81A of the Defence of India

Rules. Under section 81A the Central Government could by general or special order prohibit a strike or a lock-out in connection with any trade dispute.

Recently there was a Labour Conference at Delhi. In that conference there was a discussion regarding the abovementioned general order. As a result of the discussion the Central Government has made the following order: (1) that no person employed in any undertaking shall go on strike in connection with any trade dispute without having given his employer within one month before striking not less than 14 days' previous notice in writing of his intention so to do; (2) when any trade dispute has been referred to a court of enquiry or a board of conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act of 1929 or for conciliation or adjudication under an order made under rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, no person employed in any undertaking concerned in the dispute shall go on strike until the expiry of two months after the conclusion of the procedings upon such reference.

Sir, as a result of this order the labourers have practically lost their right to strike. Is it conceivable that if any labourer intimates to the employer in writing of his intention to go on strike, the employer will retain him in the service even for a single day? He will simply ask him to clear out.

In the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, no doubt there is a provision more or less like this, but there the employer cannot dismiss any man, cannot change the conditions of his service during this period. So, the labourer can have agitation, meetings, etc. These stimulate the labourers and help them in beginning the strike if it becomes inevitable after all. But according to this order the labourers have practically lost their right to strike without any compensatory advantage.

Sir, I am given to understand that the representative of the Bengal Government who was present in the Conference at Delhi agreed to this order and he gave his consent to this order. If this be true, nothing can be more lamentable than this.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, if I had more time, I would have spoken about the Trade Disputes Act. We all know that the last Ministry did not give effect to it. So, practically no good has been done to the labourers. I believe the present Ministry will give a more effective trial to this and thereby do some good to the labourers of this province.

Sir, I also understand that there is an amended draft of the Bombay Trade Disputes Act with the present Labour Minister. I do not know how that Act has been amended. I have handed over to him a copy of the presidential address which I delivered in Bombay session of the Trade Unions Congress year before last. In that I have at length discussed what amendments should be made in the Bombay Trade

Disputes Act, so that it might be acceptable to us. I hope that an Amendment Bill will be soon brought before this House so that by virtue of that Bill Government can have some power over mill-owners. Because we are really in doubt whether the present Government has got any real effective power over the proprietors of industries. Of course, the Defence of India Rules give them some power, but that power is not very definite. It is couched in language which can be interpreted in different ways. So, I request the present Ministry to bring in an Amended Bill as soon as possible so that Government can have some effective power over companies and, therefore, can make them concede the legitimate demands of the labourers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today at this fag-end comes the discussion on labour policy. Sir, in our legislative household labour question has practically occupied the position of a Cinderalla. But compared to the regime of one who has been appreciated as a youthful and vigorous Labour Minister by one of our Opposition friends but whose regime at the same time has been characterised by my friend and colleague Mr. Sibnath Banerjee as the regime of the belabouring Minister, her lot has perhaps improved in one particular respect. It has improved in this that we have a sort of a seasoned old man at the helm, neither in hurry for doing something dreadful or desperate, nor, perhaps, speeding up so much as our friends on the other side would like, but at last there is some hope for our Cinderalla to be at least left alone, if her lot cannot be appreciably improved. That being the position, Sir, I think that the constructive suggestions which my friends and colleagues on the other side of the House have made will certainly be of very great help to mould the policy of the present Government, because these constructive suggestions come as a result of the experience—not a very pleasant experience—of the labour policy of the last 5 years.

While listening very attentively to the speech of my honourable friend Dr. Malik I was wondering whether his admonitions should not have better been delivered three months ago addressed to the honourable ex-Labour Minister who adorned the benches on this side of the House. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has also forwarded your application for a job.) We know that the regime of the past Labour Minister has been more to deal with not labour problems but rather to deal with the work of the nature of an agency for forwarding applications for jobs, and that, unfortunately, has not been so very helpful for the actual sufferers in the labour field. My friend Mr. Sibnath Banerjee has proposed that periodic conferences with the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress would be useful. Sir, I do not think that Labour members, whether they sit on the opposition or on this side of the House, would have anything to do but to welcome this proposal and I do not think that this is a proposal which needs the most careful consideration of the

present Government. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is this a reply on behalf of the present Government—of the Minister in charge?) which, unfortunately, has not yet had sufficient time to consider this proposal, but, Sir, nevertheless, we do think that the time has come when much more has to be done within the span of a month or two than might have otherwise been possible to do in the course of three or four years. Therefore, I for one on this side of the House do not wish that the Government should make the insufficiency of time an excuse for not being expeditious enough. On the contrary, Sir, I do think that the present Ministry, whose tradition has been to welcome suggestions from all sides of the House, will help in expediting matters a good deal and from that standpoint I entirely endorse the suggestion for periodic conferences with labour organisations of which the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress is the primary one. Sir, I would also suggest to the Hon'ble Labour Minister to take note that something like the constitution of a Provincial Labour Council composed of representatives of the different trade groups of the province might be a very useful agency for the purpose of maintaining the closest contact between the Ministry and all sections of Labour. The Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress would be the most helpful agency to bring that about.

Sir, as regards the question of the disabilities and disadvantages of Labour whether the present Ministry has been able to do a lot or not, we find today at least that if the Ministry is actuated by a desire, as much as it lies within their power, to take the co-operation of members of all sides of the House who are prompted by the desire to help the present situation with their constructive suggestions, they will be able to achieve a good deal and there is room for that achievement today. We know, Sir, to our great dismay that recently in one of the provinces in the south, in Madras, Labour had a terrible experience, a terrible ordeal to pass through. The present situation is causing untold hardship on Labour, because Labour, although not in the front line of trenches for fight, is bearing the brunt of the entire burden of the gigantic war that is going on to today; whether the field of Labour is actually in the war zone or not the brunt of the burden comes on their shoulders. Under such circumstances it is only legitimate and reasonable that Labour should demand that adequate arrangements should be made for their civil protection for their war benefit and other amenities. Sir, when on such demands the labourers represented their viewpoints and presented their demand in that province which has not the good fortune of being under the administration of a Ministry but is run by the Civil Service, we found that over 8 labourers were shot down instantaneously on the spot, and hundreds were injured by the bullets I refer, Sir, to the massacre of workers in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills. We have not witnessed anything of the kind in this province, but, Sir, we know that time has fast gone by when this hectoring

attitude will do for the labour field. Therefore, I think, taking our lesson from the neighbouring provinces, that responsibility comes on all of us whether we sit on this side of the House or on the opposition to see that the situation is not allowed to grow and come to such a pass where such tragedies might become inevitable. Sir, the responsibility on that score rests on each one of us individually and collectively.

Sir, today we are constantly pressing for the lifting of various restrictions on labourers. Sir, this has been the policy characterising the past regime in this province. Today to give a few instances, in one of the Calcutta workshops where the workers were engaged in the production of vital war materials, for instance, shells and ammunitions, in the Entally workshop of Messrs. Saxby and Farmer (India), Ltd., three worker leaders who were engaged in the work of production were externed under the Defence of India Act during the regime of Mr. Suhrawardy and Sir Nazimuddin. Sir, the whole justification presented against those men was that those men belonged to the Red Trade Union. The charge against them was that Mr. Suhrawardy's endeavour to set up a rival trade union in pursuit of his traditional activities of breaking trade unions and sabotaging Labour movement and breaking strikes failed. When persuasion, when trying to buy them up or to bully them, when nothing else could make them agree to join the reactionary trade unions of Mr. Suhrawardy, then came the collaboration between the then Labour Department and Home Department, and the three men were externed. Sir, recently the case of these three externees from Messrs. Saxby and Farmer (India), Ltd., has been brought to the notice of the present Ministry, and we have every hope that these grievances will be removed expeditiously. Sir, we have also noticed the difference in the manner in which the present Ministry is prepared to listen to the representations and grievances of labour. We had the bitter experience of trade union officials and Secretaries being shown the door at the Labour Commissioner's Office and at the office of the Registrar, Trade Unions. That has been an undeniable experience of the past about which our friends who sit on other side and who were sitting along with us at that time, all raised their voice of protest.

Sir, another case in point is the case of several workmen of the Anglo-Indian Jute Mills at Jagaddal. These unfortunate men again were suddenly put under arrest under the Defence of India Act. Nothing whatsoever was found against them. After a fortnight they were released unconditionally without any restriction or without any prosecution being launched against them. But, Sir, these men were not taken back to work. Their fault was that they belonged to the Red Trade Union.

In respect of the cases of Makhanram and others, Mr. Suhrawardy assured the House that he had not come to any final conclusion. He

was looking into their grievances. Month after month rolled by, half a year rolled by, but neither the grievances were removed, nor was it possible for Mr. Suhrawardy to come to a conclusion on the question of the fate of these men.

Sir, here again we find that in the Calcutta docks and jetties the workers are forced to bear identity cards with a view to be able to get to the docks for their daily labour. Again there is one Krishto Jano, a dock labourer. His identity card was snatched away by the police, I am in a position to say, at the instance of the Labour Minister of those days. I had myself an occasion to intervene in the matter and I was told by the police official concerned that these were men who belonged to the Red Trade Union. Cards would only be returned—that was what the men were told—if they agreed to join the black-flag unions of Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy whose inspiration was supplied by the black shirts of Mussolini who was called the jackal of Herr Hitler. That was the ideal, that was the inspiration which was supplied by the Labour Ministry. I am sorry to say our friends on the other side, I mean the European Group who today are raising their voice in a chorus asking for the support of the Indian people as a whole, for the support of the Indian Labour towards the prosecution of the war, are precisely the persons who helped, stimulated and kept alive by active encouragement the Labour policy of Mr. Suhrawardy, who was inspired by the black-flags of Mussolini and Hitler. It is too late in the day to cry for help and to get that help which you need from Labour upless you change your ideal altogether. It is in that view I present my observations to the House.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, আজ labour policy সম্বন্ধে discussion করতে গিয়ে আমার কিছু বলা দরকার, যেহেতু আমি labour constituency থেকে এসেছি। আজ এই বজেট discussion হচ্ছে—(noise)। আমি যখনই যে কোন Ministerএর বিশেষ ব্যাপার নিয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছি, তখনই ওপাশে দেখেছি ছটফট করে উঠেছেন। ছোট বেলায় দেখেছি চটপটী এক রকম বাড়ি আছে মাটিতে ঘসে দিলেই চটপট আওয়াজ হয়। ওদের ভিতর সেই রকম আওয়াজ শুনতে পাচ্ছি। ঐ দলের কর্তাদের দেখলে মনে হয়, ওরা ভাবছে কি জানি তাদের সব কথা মুখ খুলে পাছে বলে দেই। তাহলে ওদের সর্বনাশ হবে। তাই তাড়াতাড়ি বর্তমান Ministryর উপর যত কিছু তাদের নিজের দোষ চাপিয়ে দিয়ে নিজেরা যাতে দোষমুক্ত হতে পারেন এখনও সেই জন্য চেষ্টা করছেন। কিন্তু সে দিকেতে কিছু হবার নয়। ওরা নমুনা রেখে গেছেন যে রকম, ওরা সমস্ত department যে ভাবে সর্বনাশ করে গেছেন, ওরা যে system করে গেছেন, সমস্ত দিক দিয়ে সেগুলি সাফ করে ফেলা দরকার। আমাদের বালেক সাহেব বলেছেন যে বর্তমান Labour Minister বুড়ো মানুষ। বুড়ো লোকের ভাল হওয়া সহজ, কারণ

ওদের লোভ নেই, লালসা নেই, কোন দিন করবে না যা সহীদ সাহেব সেখানে থাকবার সময় অনেক কিছু তিনি করেছিলেন! তার চার দিকে ঘুরে ঘুরে বেড়াবার দরকার ছিল চারিদিকে অনেক টাকাপয়সার দরকার ছিল। Labour Party নামে একটা Black Flag নামধারী Union করে রেখে ছিলেন গোলমাল করবার জন্য। কোম্পানির কাছ থেকে টাকা আদায় করবেন এবং এদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট হাতে থাকায় তার কাছ থেকে টাকা নিয়ে নিজের পিছনে খরচ করতেন। আমার মনে হয়——

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member justified in casting aspersions on an Hon'ble Minister? I object to that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope there will not be any personal charges against any member of the House.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is definitely making an allegation that is untrue. Therefore, he must be asked to withdraw. Under the rules he is not allowed to cast any personal aspersions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If members on both sides invite interruptions and introduce matters which are debatable I cannot help it. I can only give a general direction that no personal charge should be made against any individual member, and I hope members will remember it.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: It is nothing but a comparative study of an old and young Minister.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is the point.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, যা কিছু বলার আমার ছিল, কিছুই বলবার ইচ্ছা ছিল না এবং মোটেই বলতে চাই নি। ওরাই প্রথমে এমনি ভাবে খোঁচা দেয় যে সেই খোঁচাটা ওদেরই ঘাড়ে যেয়ে পড়ে। কি করব নাচার। আজ যেই Minister খান বাহাদুর আবদুল করিম সাহেব হলেন অমনি তার বিরুদ্ধে কিছু বলতে হবে। তাই মালেক সাহেব labour leader সেজে, তাকে জড়িয়ে, তার বিরুদ্ধে নাড়াচাড়া আরম্ভ করেছেন। কাজেই ওদের জানা উচিত ছিল এই সব কথা ঘুরে ফিরে ওদেরই ঘাড়ে যাবে।

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not say anything against the Minister.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Dr. Malik said that he is an old man.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a most unfair charge. It is a studied observation.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Chief Ministerএর সম্বন্ধেও মালিক সাহেব বলেছেন যাদের সম্বন্ধে বলবার, আমার মনে হয়, অধিকার ওঁর নেই। Labour শ্রমিকের ভালমন্দ সম্বন্ধে ওঁদের কিছু বলবার অধিকার নেই। যদি অধিকার থাকে, আমাদেরই আছে যারা শ্রমিক দল থেকে এসেছি এবং তাদের জন্য কাজ করে আসছি এবং জানি আমরা কার সম্বন্ধে কি বলা দরকার। কাজেই আমি ওঁদের বলে দিতে চাই যে আপনারা এরপরে, ভবিষ্যতে আর কোন খোঁচাখুচি, কথা কাটাকাটি করবেন না তাহলে আমরাও করব না। আমি বলি চটপটী বাজীর মত চটপট করে উঠবেন না। যদি চটপট করেন আমরাও ঘষে দেব। তাহলে আগুন জ্বলে উঠবে এবং আরও চটপট করে উঠতে হবে আপনাদিগকে। তাতে লাভ হবে না। আমি এ বিষয়ে আর বলতে চাই না। এখন কথা হচ্ছে আপনাদের কাছে বলতে চাই এই যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বর্তমান বাজেট sessionর মধ্যেই চেষ্টা করেছেন, যাতে labour movement ভাল ভাবে চলে। Labourদের যাতে উন্নতি হয়, উপকার হয়, তার জন্য এরই মাঝখানে একটা conference হয়ে গেছে এবং আগামীতে কনফারেন্স করে ভবিষ্যতে উহাদের যাতে উন্নতি হয়, যদি এর জন্য legislationএর ও দরকার হয় সে সম্বন্ধে উনি চেষ্টা করবেন। আর একটা কথা বলতে চাই। আমরা এর পূর্বে এই শ্রমিকদের যে grievance সে সম্বন্ধে বহু আলোচনা করেছি, শ্রমিকদের জন্য বহু চেষ্টা করেছি কিন্তু কোন সময় বেশী কিছু করতে পারিনি—মাননীয় সহীদ সুরাবর্দী সাহেব যখন Labour Minister ছিলেন। বর্তমানে আমরা আশা করছি আমরা কিছু করতে পারব এবং করাও দরকার। বিশেষ করে, আজ শ্রমিক আন্দোলন সম্বন্ধে যদি বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কিছু না করেন, তাহলে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর অবস্থা কাহিল হবে এবং এ বিষয়ে তারা নিজেরাই অবহিত আছেন এবং হওয়াও দরকার। কারণ এই যে war effort, যদি আজ মিল থেকে সমস্ত শ্রমিক পালিয়ে যায় তারপরের অবস্থা যে কি হবে, সে সম্বন্ধে বর্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী, বিশেষ করে প্রধান মন্ত্রী, যিনি এখানে রয়েছেন, সে দিকে তাদের নজর দিয়ে সে সম্বন্ধে ব্যবস্থা করবেন এবং এ সম্বন্ধে বর্তমান Cabinet নিশ্চেষ্ট থাকবেন না; সে সম্বন্ধে আবশ্যক ব্যবস্থা করবেন। আজ আমি এই বলে শেষ করতে চাই আপনারা ধীর স্থির ভাবে এ দিকটা একটু দেখুন, একটু সময় দিন, ভাবতে দিন এবং চেষ্টা করতে দিন যে কি ভাবে legislation করা যায়। এর পূর্বে ওঁদের যে policy তা ওঁদের ছাড়বার জন্য বলছি। যখন সহীদ সাহেব White Union নামে Black Flag Union করেছিলেন তার উদ্দেশ্য ছিল, মূল মন্ত্র ছিল real Trade Union movement নষ্ট করে, ভেঙ্গে দিয়ে, এমন গোলমাল সৃষ্টি করা যে সেখানে কতকগুলি লোক ভাড়াটিয়ে হিসেবে কাজ করবে। একবার মিল মালিকদিগকে ধমক দিচ্ছেন আবার গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ধমক দিচ্ছেন যাতে ওঁর প্রতিপত্তি বেড়ে যায় এবং প্রতিপত্তি বেড়ে যাবার সঙ্গে যাতে দেশকে শাসন ও শোষণ করতে পারেন। আজ সেখান থেকে

বঞ্চিত হয়ে গেছেন। কথায় আছে, খোদার মার শেষ রাত্রে। ওদের উপর সেই ভগবানের মার পড়েছে। আজ যে ভাবে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় চেষ্টা করছেন এই চেষ্টা যে ফলবতী হবে সে সম্বন্ধে আমাদের দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস আছে। এবং আমরা যারা labour movementএ কাজ করি, আমরা জানি labour সম্বন্ধে কি ব্যবস্থা করব, না করব এবং আমাদের সেই উপদেশ মন্ত্রী মহাশয় নিয়ে always চেষ্টা করবেন যাতে শ্রমিকদের উপকার হয় এবং মিল মালিকদেরও কোন কষ্ট না হয় এবং বর্ত্তমান war effort যাতে ভালভাবে হতে পারে সেই চেষ্টা করবেন এবং সে দিকেতে Labour Minister সব সময় চেষ্টা করবেন যাতে labourএর কোন ক্ষতি না হয়। এটা জানান দরকার যে labourএর যাতে ক্ষতি হয় সেটা আমরা করতে দেব না। এইটুকু বলেই আমি শেষ করব।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the Hon'ble Minister rises to speak may I, with your leave, state that I have in my possession an important announcement which is purported to be His Majesty's Government's decision which has come along with Sir Stafford Cripps. If the honourable members of the House are interested and if you will permit me I would like to place it before the House so that the honourable members may go home and examine the proposals. They have now much more important matters to discuss.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, Dr. Sanyal. I cannot allow you to refer to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a very important question, Sir, in which all honourable members are keenly interested.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no question before the House, Dr. Sanyal, at the present moment except the Budget demand under the head "Labour".

Mr. NIHARENDU DATTA MAJUMDAR: How can that document come to you?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have the reputation of stealing many important documents: perhaps this is one of them.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, the crime of being a Minister sufficiently well advanced in age I will neither palliate nor deny, but I can assure the House that I have enough of vitality in me, not that physical energy which my younger friends have, I have enough vitality left in me even at this age to shoulder the responsibility of the high office which it has been the pleasure and desire of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to place on my shoulders. I will tell the House that quite unlike other men I have a thin skull

and a thick skin, and not a thin skin and a thick skull, and that the butterflies buzzing over my head do not trouble me in the least. If Dr. Malik has had the advantage of any University education he might know that, as Edmund Burke had said, one man may be a specialist in one subject or another but Law is equal to all the other sciences in the world taken together. Here is a Ministry composed of all experienced and seasoned lawyers the like of which no constitution in the world has ever seen——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: You have heard the policy, the Labour policy of Government enunciated and declared by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister the other day on the floor of this House. I do not think it will be necessary for me to repeat that assurance which must be ringing in your ears all round. All that I can do to reaffirm that policy is to say that a genuine solicitude for the welfare of the teeming millions of the agricultural population is, and will ever remain, the key-note of the present administration. I can tell you that I have been during the last fifty years of my life a glorified *mazdoor* myself, having had my existence amidst the labouring classes and it does not lie in the mouth of Dr. Malik to say that this man has got no experience of Labour. I say I have more of experience of Labour than all your medical science can think about. Dr. Malik must remember that he and men of his ilk are not taller than ourselves. They are pigmies but they look tall because they stand on a higher elevation, because they stand on the rich legacy of our labours. I do not ask for a ruling from the Hon'ble the Deputy Speaker on the point as to whether the Minister for Education has got any jurisdiction to educate people within the four corners of this House. However, I will deal with that question on a future occassion.

Now, Sir, that policy, as I have already told you, has been well enunciated and it is not safe for puisne Ministers to repeat that policy of the Ministry again. Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Zaman, they all know me fully well. I have had discussions with them about the Labour problem from the month of January last. Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee knows that I have already a draft amendment of the Trade Disputes Act in my hand——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In your left hand!

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, in my left hand because I have reserved my right hand for other purposes——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For fighting?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I know I am old but I do not think I am yet too old to learn. And with the legal acumen that I have and of the past experience of the world I have always felt that the time will never come when I will think for myself that I have nothing more to learn. I have still a great thirst for knowledge, especially on account of the responsibility imposed on my shoulders. I have thoroughly studied the question of Labour uplift and have prepared a scheme that I have discussed with the Labour leaders. It was in view of that that I had on my own accord and my own initiative requested the Labour members to come to my house at a small conference on Sunday last, and I had given them advance copies of the scheme——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Did you give them a good dinner?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: It was in between the breakfast and the dinner time. Dr Sanyal would be well advised to have no meals in between a breakfast and a dinner.

Sir, I have already in my brain which is a pocket library all the details regarding the Labour question. Do not think that I am altogether mute. As regards the Departments of Commerce and Labour and of Education I have studied the problems and as a result of my comprehensive study some difficult problems have presented themselves before me. And I ask the Labour members just to help me so that I can make myself practically useful to them.

Now, Sir, I will refer to the general debate that has been made. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee spoke on various points. I will take up all the points raised by him and give a reply——

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I was not allowed to read out the whole list.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: You can present them all to me.

Before I proceed to discuss this I publicly announce here that before the close of this session I am going to form an Advisory Committee and I will have a full discussion with them. Then I will leave for Delhi to attend the All-India Price Control Conference on the 7th and 8th of April. We will meet in a day or two and I will have the advantage of discussion with all the members before I leave for Delhi.

Now, Sir, as regards the question of policy that was raised by the cut motion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had already made an announcement and I have got a copy of what he stated therein. But I do not want to waste the time of the House by repeating it as it is fresh in the minds of honourable members. As regards the supplementary matter which the Chief Minister's statement raised I have got also a draft amendment Bill of the Trade Disputes Act in my hand and if necessary I will have to introduce it. I will observe the course of events during these months and I do not think there will be any necessity for a legislation. We shall be able to settle everything by amicable settlement and private persuasion. If, however, everything proves hopeless, in that case I will have to take recourse to my last resort and my sword will come out of the scabbard.

Now, Sir, I will give a pointed reply to the points raised by honourable members. I am not going to shirk my responsibility. Sir, an attempt has been made to collect full information regarding increases in wages and war or dearness allowances that have been allowed generally by the industrial employers of this province to their workers. The principal points to be considered in this matter are, (*i*) co-ordination of the increase in wages or allowances granted by the employers; (*ii*) if further increases are considered desirable, how far industries have capacity to pay, and (*iii*) if the industries are able to pay more, what steps are to be taken to avoid the danger of inflation. These are the three principal points to which attention should be riveted before we take up a discussion of the policy.

Since the beginning of the present war, the Price Control office has been maintaining cost of index figures based on the retail prices of certain essential commodities in the Calcutta area. I do not accept in its entirety the accuracy of the figures given by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee. These figures cannot be claimed to be scientifically accurate, but for practical purposes they may be accepted as guide. According to these figures, the index on 8th December, 1941, was 129, which was the highest since 1st September 1939, when the index was 100. Since 8th December, 1941, the indices have come down: the figure on 30th January, 1942, was 122. The increases allowed by the employers cannot be expressed accurately in percentages, but these seem to range between 10 per cent. and 15 per cent. In many cases, the earnings of the workers have increased owing to the increased activities of factories, specially those engaged on war work. If these increases in earnings are taken into account along with the increases in wages or war or dearness allowances given by the employers, it seems that the net earnings of factory workers are not perhaps insufficient to meet the increased cost of living. It is, however, not possible to make any definite statement on this point without proper examination of the relevant data which are not available.

Then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about dearness allowance given by Government. Government have been paying a dearness allowance of Re. 1 per month to all the employees drawing Rs. 30 or less per month. Recently, this allowance has been increased, with effect from the 1st February to Rs. 2 per month in the case of those of this class of employees who are stationed at Alipore Sadar, Howrah Sadar, Calcutta and Darjeeling. This increase is too low compared to that allowed by non-Government industrial employers. This point should be referred to the Finance Department and other departments having industrial employees under them.

Our policy about dearness allowances has been to advise the giving of a flat cash bonus of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 monthly, so that those lowest receive the largest percentage dearness allowance. The Price Controller's Cost of Living Index is defective and understates the rise in the cost of living. There are several conspicuous omissions, and so far as we are concerned we cannot accept the position that the index is usable even for practical purposes only. That is due to my examination of the whole thing. Government would, in my opinion, be placing itself in an indefensible position by relying on the index as a working guide. Speaking generally, there has been no general failure so far to grant dearness allowance, although that granted by the jute mills is now inadequate. Now, Sir, the Labour Commissioner has been making constant endeavours to induce the employers to pay adequate dearness allowances and in some cases he has been successful. I gather this from the fortnightly reports. (Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I do not accept this.) If you do not accept now, in the Advisory Committee I will have everything placed before you and then you will see. And the attitude of some of the industries is not altogether unreasonable. Most of them have been paying dearness allowances and quite a number of them have been watching price movements to consider how far the claims for increase in rates is justified by increase in the cost of living.

One more point and I will finish, Sir. As regards price control measures there are difficulties in the way of the provincial government. The problem of price control is no longer checking of profiteering by a number of arrests and prosecutions as was successful on the outbreak of war. The problem has now become much more complex on account of increasing difficulty in securing wagons and haulage for the movement of commodities. Increased purchasing power of the people and a quicker circulation of currency have had their effect in the present rise of prices.

The powers of the Provincial Governments to control prices of necessaries of life and to regulate their movement were until recently circumscribed by a Schedule to which additions could be made only

by the Central Government. That restriction has now been removed subject to certain safeguards and full powers have been delegated which in turn the Provincial Government have delegated to District and Subdivisional Officers; but the control of prices and maintenance of supplies of the more important food grains like rice and wheat and other necessaries of life such as coal and cotton cloth are seen more and more to be all-India questions the solution of which cannot be essayed by the Provincial Government.

That is an important point which we are going to discuss in Delhi. Not only that. Our situation has been rendered much more difficult by a letter, or as they call it, a direction under the Government of India Act that the stock of wheat in the Punjab, North-Western Frontier Province and in the United Provinces has been dried up altogether and they want Bengal to supply those provinces with rice. We have protested against that. We have not got a reply from the Government of India as yet. That point also will be taken up at the Delhi conference

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has not spoken anything about the new order next month, regarding section 81A about which I spoke. I hear that the Labour Minister who attended the Conference gave his assent to the order. The Hon'ble Minister has not made any statement or said anything about that order. Is it correct that the Bengal Government has given its assent to the order?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am looking into the matter and then I shall consider whether the order if already agreed to should stand or not.

The motion of Dr. Abdul Motaleb Malik that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

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The motion of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji that the demand of Rs. 5,18,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that a sum of Rs. 5,18,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-55 p.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th March, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 26th March, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 194 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Certain comment in the Newspaper "The Statesman".

*199. (SHORT NOTICE.) **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department been drawn to the editorial of the *Statesman* under caption "Fascists in India" of the 13th March, 1942?

(*b*) If so, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is the declared policy of this Government to further in the fullest possible manner the war effort and all genuine activities for the defence of our country and we shall not tolerate activities likely to endanger the safety of the people.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government enquired of the *Statesman* how this paper came to know that those who tried to break up the so-called anti-Fascist Conference at Dacca were really Fascists? They might be republicans or they might be friends of the country.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of order, Sir. It is not established——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Sir——

(Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas also rose to put a question.)

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I must be allowed to answer the question. If half a dozen members speak from different sides of the House, how could I answer the question? Several articles in the *Statesman* appearing of late have been of an objectionable character. All these articles and the whole situation are being examined. Before I get the legal opinions which I have called for, I am afraid I will not be able to make any statement.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has considered the desirability of scrutinising the editorials of the *Statesman* before they are published?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As I have said I cannot make any statement beyond what I have said. The whole position is being examined.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister that several articles have been appearing of late in the *Statesman*, in view of the fact that in one of these articles allegations have been made regarding some supporters of Government that they are trying to betray Bengal to the Japanese, and also in view of the fact that the leader of one party of the Coalition group, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, has been arrested and detained on the suspicion of having contact with Japan——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a very lengthy question you are putting. Please ask the question in a simpler form.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose has been detained for having contact with Japan giving rise to suspicion in the minds of the people about the complicity of a man in the party, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the member belonging to Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose's party will disown him as his leader?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The honourable member's lengthy question does not show any sense and I cannot, therefore, answer the question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to answer (*b*) where it is stated that "we shall not tolerate activities likely to endanger the safety of the people," is it the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister that

the article or the policy of the *Statesman* is directed towards prevention of war efforts? The answer I have read is in reply to question (*b*) which is "If so what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?"

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is not a question that has been put but a series of questions jumbled up together, and unless there is one question put at a time I am not prepared to answer.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that he has brought a damage suit for Rs. 1 lakh against Mr. Arthur Moore for the publication of that editorial?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Not that. I have brought a suit against the editor of the *Statesman* for another statement which he made in an article against me personally. That is a fact. I have done that against the League and Mr. Jinnah also.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am sorry, Sir, my question was not understood.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It does not make any sense and, therefore, I cannot understand it. Please try to make it sensible.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question was: what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter? That was the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have already answered that I am not prepared to answer any question unless I get the opinion of legal officers on the points that I have submitted to them.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not put the question and yet the Hon'ble Minister says that he has already answered it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Government satisfied that the articles in question are written by the *Statesman* in collusion with the leading lights of the Opposition benches?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a question which the Hon'ble Minister can answer.

Requisition of private lorries by Government.

***201. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Defence Department aware that lorries belonging to private individuals are being taken over by the Government for A.R.P. Works?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this has caused—

(*i*) panic amongst the attendants of such lorries and factory labourers; and

(*ii*) a dislocation of trade and industry?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he intends to take to prevent such panic?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether proper price is being paid to such lorry owners that have been taken over by the Government?

(*e*) If so, within what time?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT and CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) I am afraid some dislocation is inevitable, but it is unhappily inevitable and the rules are so devised as to reduce it to the minimum.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*e*) As soon as possible after acquisition.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether notices are issued to the owners of lorries and on their failure to comply with the directions contained in such notices, lorries are seized and taken away by force?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I think that it is a correct statement of the position. The honourable member will, I am sure, realise that when these motor vehicles are required for military or other defence purposes some amount of coercion will be necessary in cases of those who refuse to comply with the orders made by the authorities.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I have not got an answer to my question. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether notices are issued first to the owners of lorries?

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: The Hon'ble Minister has already said that it is a correct statement.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the lorries are seized if the sergeant who seizes the lorries makes enquiries of drivers whether the lorries at that time were commissioned for performing important and urgent duties?

The Hon'ble Mr. Santosh KUMAR BASU: I am not in a position to state what individual sergeants do in individual cases.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis is the valuation of the lorry fixed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is too large a question for me to answer in this way

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to direct these officers or sergeants to enquire if the lorries are at that moment specially commissioned for any work?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not in a position to state whether it will be possible in the existing circumstances under the scheme that has been prepared to ensure what the honourable member has asked.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of issuing notices to owners of lorries at least a fortnight before so that their business may not be disturbed and they may not be put to immense inconvenience?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That would be a very desirable thing if, of course, it could be given effect to, but in these extremely difficult times it is not possible to give notice 15 days ahead.

(At this stage question No. *202 was called.)

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: May I put one more supplementary question, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I have called the next question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, this is a very important question. These lorries are being transported——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit down, Mr. Ghose? This question is already over and I cannot allow any more supplementary on this.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, these lorries are being transported to Burma without the knowledge of the proprietors, and it is our right to represent their cases.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit down, Mr. Ghose? I cannot allow any more questions. I have given sufficient opportunities already.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: All right, Sir, I sit down, because you have the right to ask me to sit down. But my submission is that you cannot take away our right to put supplementary questions.

Appointment of a temporary supervisor in Public Health Department.

***202. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that applications were invited and received from Muslim candidates by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, up to 24th October, 1941, to fill up the temporary vacancy of a supervisor;

(*ii*) that five Muslim candidates were called for interview on the 5th December, 1941; and

(*iii*) that the Chief Engineer had asked the candidates to see him on the 8th December, 1941, on which date the candidates were examined by him?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any appointment has since been made to the post from amongst the said candidates?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) No appointment has been made from the five candidates for the following reasons. A temporary supervisor in the Public Health Department having been appointed as officiating Superintendent, Kalimpong Water Works, a Hindu officer was taken in his place by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department. Government did not

approve this arrangement and directed to fill the post of the temporary supervisor by a Moslem. The post was advertised accordingly. But the position changed by the time the candidates were interviewed. The vacancy in the post of the Superintendent, Kalimpong Water Works, was expected to be filled up substantively within a short period and in view of this it was not considered advisable to remove the temporary Hindu officer for the short period.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Having regard to the fact that the post of temporary supervisor, Public Health Department, was reserved for Muslims and having regard to the further fact that Muslim candidates were available, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department be pleased to state why a Hindu officer was taken in instead of a Muslim at the first instance?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It will be clear from the answer itself that that was done in the Department concerned without previous reference to the Government, but as soon as it was brought to the notice of the Government, the reply states, Government did not approve this arrangement and directed to fill the post of the temporary supervisor by a Muslim.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that the officiating Superintendent, Kalimpong Waterworks, is going to be made permanent in that post, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of reserving the post, which is going to be vacant by reason of the incumbent of the post being promoted to the post of Superintendent, for a Muslim?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I shall certainly consider that question.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Sir, the answer says that temporary supervisor has been appointed the officiating Superintendent. May we know whether the supervisor is a Hindu or a Muslim?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I cannot say that because this question does not relate to that.

Personal explanation.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. As the Hon'ble Chief Minister has refused to give any answer to my supplementary question regarding question No. *199

unless and until he has got the full report about the enquiries which he is making, I am bound to make a personal explanation; otherwise when it goes to the Press it will create a wrong impression.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Banerjee, I cannot allow you to make any personal explanation on this because the Hon'ble Minister has given what answers he could give at the present moment.

Time prescribed for questions.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With due respect to the Chair, I would like to draw attention to the fact that it is not yet 9 a.m. and the time set apart for questions is one hour. But still you gave your ruling that sufficient discussion had been made on the question of lorries and that no further discussion was necessary, though I stood up to put one or two supplementary questions, because so many owners of lorries in Calcutta are being harassed and so many business men are being put to inconvenience.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr Ghose, I can not help it. You should always remember that you can put supplementary questions only for eliciting any matter of fact arising out of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister. That is the protection I can give you. But in this case the Hon'ble Minister has given his answer and you are still insisting on putting questions which do not arise out of the answers given. I am prepared to give one hour everyday. But how can I help if the Hon'ble Minister refuses to answer or says that he is not in a position to say at the moment more than what he has said. In my opinion the supplementary question that you put does not arise out of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister. And, therefore, I curtailed your right to put that question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: But what you said, Sir, I submit, was that enough discussion was made, to which view I do not agree.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, the honourable member is perfectly justified in making the observation that considerable hardship is being caused to business men by the arrangements which have been put into operation. There is absolutely no justification on my part or on the part of any other member to question that statement of fact. At the same time I would like to make it perfectly clear that having regard to the extraordinary situation in which we are now functioning it is not possible for us to ensure that amount of minimum convenience which we would otherwise like to ensure. The difficulty from which we are suffering is that the civil administration,

the demands of commerce and industry—all these things have to be subordinated to the overwhelming consideration of military necessity. It is for these reasons that everybody engaged in commerce and industry, profession or any other business has got to subordinate to a very great extent his individual demand to the necessity of the defence of the country. In these circumstances we always attempt to minimise the hardship but beyond that no guarantee can be given.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of information, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit down, Mr. Ghose? If you are not satisfied with the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister, all you can do is to move a relevant motion. But I cannot, as I have already told you, allow any more discusison on this because I am absolutely helpless in the matter as to whether a Minister has properly answered or whether sufficient answers have been given or not. If you are not satisfied, it is open to you to move a motion.

Pending questions.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I, Sir, draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that the session is soon coming to a close and that there are still many questions pending. May we know, Sir, what is going to be done with regard to those pending questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All I can say is that we have tried our level best to have answers to all the questions during this session, but as we have not got all the answers from the Government we are quite helpless. However, I will try to get from Government answers to as many questions as possible in two or three days.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, may I point out that so far as my knowledge goes, we have been extremely anxious to answer as many questions as possible. Personally I remember answering a dozen questions every day and I have answered questions within two or three days of their being put. I will also enquire from other departments whether questions have accumulated and we shall see that questions are sent as quickly as posible. It is not our desire to withhold questions.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, questions of the July session are still pending.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is possible. Arrears have to be cleared up.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I put two short notice questions some time ago—one regarding the representation of the armoury raid prisoners and the other regarding the publication of the magisterial enquiry report into the recent Dacca incident. I have learnt since then that the Assembly Department has sent the questions to the department concerned. May I know whether Government is unable to answer these questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will refer this matter to the Government today and I will see what has been done by the department regarding these two questions.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, previously when we used to send questions, they used to be sent to the relevant Minister. This session, however, we sent questions but they have been returned because they were not addressed to the Minister concerned. For instance, I sent a question regarding workers of the Government Electrical Department and I naturally addressed the question to the Labour Department. But it has been sent back to me saying that it does not concern the Labour Department. It concerns the Labour Department, it concerns the Public Works Department and it concerns the Finance Department. It is for the Assembly Department to find out which Minister is concerned, but instead of that, the question has been sent back to me. I think, this is very unsatisfactory.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please refer this matter in writing to me and I will enquire into it.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, the session will be over soon and I will get no reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give it to me today.

Non-official Business.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: On a point of information and on a point of order, Sir. Under rule 18 of the Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules Fridays are generally reserved for non-official business.

Sir, we are sitting tomorrow which is a Friday. So, I wonder how the Chair can order that non-official business will not be taken up tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His Excellency the Governor in exercise of his individual judgment has sent a message to the House. I will lay it before the House either this afternoon or tomorrow. The House will then understand the whole thing.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 17,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries".

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs 100. In doing so my main intention is to discuss briefly the industrial policy of the Government. From a perusal of the budget we find that a sum of Rs. 7,600 has been allotted for the Industrial Credit Syndicate as against Rs. 32,400 during the previous year But as a matter of fact very few of us have the opportunities to know what this Syndicate stands for, what is its function, what is its constitution and how far it has been able to help industrialisation of the province. I happen to be an elected member of the Board of Industries under the State Aid to Industries Act. I find there that the Board has no other function than to dispose of loan petitions and there also I find that relief cannot be extended to those for whom it is supposed to be meant on account of the rigidity of the rules framed by the department. In order to slacken the rigidity of some of the rules regarding State Aid and to avoid some of the anomalies in the Act, the standing committee of the last Coalition Party recommended some amendments to the State Aid to Industries Act. As far as I remember one of the suggested amendments was to find out a suitable and comprehensive definition of the word "Industry" for the purposes of the Act. I do not know if after a laborious research from one desk to the other of the department they have been able to find out a suitable definition to give shape to the ideas of the committee. This is the type of the department on which we have to depend for our vast industrial possibilities. Now, Sir, we find that the coming year's allotment for the Industrial Credit Syndicate is much less than those of the previous years, but no reason has been given thereof. Is it because the Syndicate has nothing substantial to do towards industrialisation of the province or is it because it has failed to discharge its functions properly. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to clarify the position.

Sir, the Department of Industry is the most important factor in the making of a nation in these days. It is a recognised fact that agriculture alone will not be able to support the growing population of our country. There is no hope for her unless she is industrialised. Industrialisation will solve the problem of unemployment not merely of the urban population but of the rural people also. It will supplement the income of the poor agriculturists and provide an off-time occupation for them. Our country possesses vast resources of men and raw material and a large internal market in her favour. We have only to make use of it towards industrial development of the country as a whole.

For some time past the attention of some of our political leaders have been drawn towards the bogey of Indianisation of administration, but I can tell you, Sir, that whatever form of Government Sir Stafford Cripps or anybody else may prescribe for us, the masses are not going to swallow it unless something tangible is given by which the economic structure of our society can be overhauled and reshaped on more humanitarian basis. Mere change of the colour of administration may satisfy a few political careerists who can display turncoat performances at any moment in order to stick to their job at any cost, but it will never be acceptable to the masses whom we have the honour to represent. It will be taken as no more than the exterior change of a building from white to black as we find done in some cases in the city for protection against air-raid.

Our friends in front on the Government benches today used to find fault with the last Ministry on the ground that they had no plan, programme or policy. May I ask that now they are in power, have they been able to formulate any definite policy? If so, how is it that there is no indication of any industrial policy in the Hon'ble Finance Minister's budget speech? I hope I shall not be told that they had only two months' time at their disposal within which they could not formulate any scheme, because I find that this period was not found insufficient in making a scheme for purchasing not economic but communal harmony at a cost of one lakh of rupees.

Our Krishak-Proja friends always talk of reduction of rent, etc., and thereby try to capture popular imagination but they do not seem to understand that they are allowing another class of people—I mean the industrial magnates—to be much more powerful and autocratic than the zaminders. This does not mean that I minimise the importance and necessity of tenancy legislations for the benefit of the raiyats but I want to make it clear that Government should come forward with a bold policy of decentralisation and democratisation of industries in the province, because I feel that it is of more vital importance to the raiyats than any sort of tenancy legislation so far as the amelioration of their economic condition is concerned.

The Board of Economic Enquiry to the Government of Bengal set up by the last Ministry has taken up preparation of some sample family budgets of agriculturists of some villages selected at random. The report has not yet been finally compiled but from what I have seen of some of these records, I may tell you, Sir, that the result would be appalling. The average income of these families would not exceed Rs. 2 per head per month. Naturally they have to live on never-ending loans. Do you think, Sir, that merely tenancy legislation can meet this state of affairs? They must be given some subsidiary industrial occupation by which they would be able to earn at least their bare maintenance expenses.

Sir, the Ministry has failed to provide any means whatsoever for our industrial development. We boast of a people's government, but what have we done for solving the people's unemployment? What have we done to keep the agriculturists employed for the larger portion of the year when they have nothing to do? Agriculture is a seasonal industry, and people engaged in it are without work in the off seasons. To do them any real and tangible good we must provide work for them in the off seasons. For this object, what is necessary above all is a revival of the cottage industries that have once been the pride of Bengal. But to our utter disappointment, the Government of Bengal have done nothing so far. The establishment of industrial credit societies and the State Aid to Industries Act and the rules made thereunder have received a dead letter of law doing no real benefit to those for whom they had been meant. People who were unable to find out a job to make their both ends meet could hardly be expected to fulfil the conditions under which a loan under the State Aid to Industries Act was to be given. The provisions of security and advance have stood on the way.

Again, Sir, Government should see that the industries which are already started are managed on a democratic basis. An industry should not be the private property of the Managing Agents alone, but of all share-holders; and what is more important is that people who are purchasers of the finished product ought to get a fair deal. The Managing Agency system is a necessary evil in our country and the sooner we can get rid of it, the better. But the Government do not seem to be quite sanguine about it. We can pay for the managing agency system only so long as Banks with industrial bias are not forthcoming. And in the establishment of industrial banks, Government have a very great duty to perform. The evils of the managing agency system are far too clear. I would suggest that it is high time that Government should be sanguine about doing away with it.

The duty of the Government with regard to cottage industries is far more significant, because here are people who do not know how the

outside world is moving. It is the clear duty of the Government to make information available at their doors and to see that they can get cheap tools and raw materials. I realise it is a difficult task at the present juncture with our import trade in machinery practically stopped. But we are not doing what we can still do. Rural industrialists have some implements of their own and with a little encouragement from the Government, they can resume their business which they had been compelled to give up. We are suffering from non-supply of certain things, we are suffering from very high prices of others. Is it not desirable that we should try in all possible ways to increase our home production as far as practicable? What an irony of fate that we cannot consume the finished product of which we ourselves possess the raw materials? For meeting our needs in war time if not for anything else, I would ask the Government to take up a policy of reviving the cottage industries. One step in this direction is distribution of funds and raw materials to men in the industrial line and also to those young men who are trained by the department. Another is perhaps the establishment of research laboratories for finding out cheap tools and materials. But these are more or less problems which will take time for solution. What we immediately require and what I think the Government has got sufficient powers and means to do are as follows:—Provision of some sort of loan in as easy term as possible to enable the rural workers to resume their industrial work, to purchase raw materials. The next thing is increase of the function of co-operative societies. They must include purchase of raw materials and sale of finished product. An individual is neither a good and successful buyer, nor a successful seller. Then comes establishment of co-operative warehouses for storing the products of cottage industries. Warehouses will give in exchange for finished product agricultural bills of exchange which are rediscountable with the Reserve Bank of India. But the greatest advantage would be the elimination of the middlemen who exploit the lion's share in these sales. Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister finds it worthwhile to consider the above suggestions and if he really means business I would request him to realise that the time has come when we should face facts boldly and do away with all the mushroom bodies like Board of Industries and the Industrial Credit Syndicate as at present constituted. Instead he should come forward with a proposal for the establishment of a Statutory Board to help and advise the Director of Industries in carrying out the Government policy. This Board should include reasonable number of representatives from the Department, Banks, distinguished industrialists, Professors of Economics, and non-official representatives of agriculturists with first-hand practical knowledge of village economics.

With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Library Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under rule 2 of the rules regulating control and management of the Library, I nominate the following members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly to serve in the Library Committee:—

(1) Mr. W. C. Wordsworth, C.I.E.,

(2) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, and

(3) Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dutta, you will move motions Nos. 52, 54, 56, 58 and 59 together.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir. I beg to move the motions standing in my name, namely, that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The objects of my motions are to raise a discussion about (1) necessity of starting organisation of hand-spun yarns, (2) marketing of village industrial products of Bengal, (3) handloom industries in Bengal, (4) policy, and (5) inadequacy of the grant for the development of handloom industries.

মি: ডেপুটি স্পীকার, স্যার, কো-অপারেটিভ ডিপার্টমেণ্ট সম্বন্ধে আমি যে কথা বলেছিলাম ইন্‌ডাষ্ট্রি ডিপার্টমেণ্ট সম্বন্ধে সেই কথা বলা দরকার। সেকথা হচ্চে এই যে আজ ৫ বৎসর এই so-called Provincial Autonomy হওয়া সত্ত্বেও Industry Department, Co-operative Departmentএর মত কিছুই কর্‌তে পারে নি। অথচ এই ডিপার্টমেণ্টের অনেক কিছু করার সম্ভাবনা ছিল। কেন যে হয় নি তার প্রধান কারণ হচ্চে মন্ত্রীমহাশয়দের এবং ডিপার্টমেণ্টের অফিসারদের একান্ত অজ্ঞতা দেশের অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে এবং তাঁদের imaginationএর অভাব। আমরা দেখি Industry Department থেকে স্কীমের পর স্কীম হচ্চে কিন্তু কাজের বেলায় এই ৫ বৎসর ধ'রে এমন কিছুই দেখ্‌তে পাওয়া যায় নি। Industry Department থেকে প্রথমে একটা Industrial Survey Committee করা হল। সেই সার্ভে কমিটি আজ ৫ বৎসর ধ'রে কাজ কোরে মাত্র ২টা কটেজ্ ইন্‌ডাষ্ট্রি সম্বন্ধে রিপোর্ট দিয়েছেন। এই যে তাঁরা কিছু ক'রতে পারেন নি তার কারণ যে যাঁরা সার্ভে কমিটির মেম্বর তাঁদের দোষ নাই, এ সম্বন্ধে কমিটির সঙ্গে সহযোগিতার একান্ত অভাব ছিল। কিছুদিন আগে যখন সার্ভে কমিটির চেয়ারম্যান Dr. Mackayকে ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট আবার নিয়ে গেলেন তখন অনেক

দিন যাবৎ এই কমিটির কোন চেয়ারম্যান appoint করা হয় নি এবং পরে চেয়ারম্যান appoint করা হলেও এখনও ভালভাবে কাজ ক'রতে পারচেন না, এবং তাঁরা যেটুকু রিপোর্ট দিয়েছেন handloom এবং bell metal সম্বন্ধে সেই রিপোর্ট অনুযায়ী আপাততঃ কোন action'ও আমাদের Industry Department নিতে পারেন নি। আমি জানি স্কীম তৈরী আছে, যে স্কীম সার্ভে কমিটী কোরে দিয়েছেন এবং সেই স্কীমকে একটু ছেঁটে আর একটা স্কীম করা হয়েছে এবং সে জন্য টাকাও sanctioned হয়েছে। আমাদের মাননীয় Finance Minister এ সম্বন্ধে তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় উল্লেখ ক'রেছিলেন যে টাকা sanctioned হওয়া সত্বেও এবং এক বছর ধ'রে পড়ে থাকা সত্বেও এ সম্বন্ধে কোন কাজ হয় নি। কেন কাজ হয় নি এটা আমি এখনও পর্য্যন্ত বুঝ্‌তে পারি না। আমার মনে হয় যাঁরা আমাদের Industry Departmentএর মন্ত্রী ছিলেন—এক জন ছিলেন না, দুজন ছিলেন—তাঁরা নিজেরা কোন কিছু দেখ্‌তেন না, এবং তাঁদের নিজের imaginationএর একান্ত অভাব। Handloom industry সম্বন্ধে যে স্কীম আছে সেই schemeটা খানিকটা আরম্ভ করা হয়েছে। আমরা যারা handloom indu try সম্বন্ধে কিছু কিছু study কোরেছি আমরা ভালভাবেই জানি যে তাঁত শিল্পের উন্নতি করা অত্যন্ত সহজ। যাঁদের তাঁত শিল্প সম্বন্ধে সামান্য অভিজ্ঞতা আছে তাঁরা জানেন যে বাংলাদেশে এখনও প্রায় ৫ লক্ষ তাঁতি আছে যারা এই তাঁতের কাজ কোরে জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে। কিন্তু অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সহযোগিতার অভাবে এবং লোকের অজ্ঞতার জন্য তাঁত শিল্প আস্তে আস্তে নষ্ট হয়ে যাচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশে মিল বেশী নাই, বেশীর ভাগ কাপড় আসে বিদেশ থেকে, বাংলার বাহির থেকে—বৎসর বৎসর প্রায় ১৪ কোটী টাকার। অথচ Industry Department প্রত্যেক বৎসর লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরেও এ বিষয়ে লক্ষ্য করেন না। তাঁতের কাপড় যদি তাঁরা ভালভাবে organise করেন, এবং তাঁতের কাপড় যে দরে বিক্রী হয় তাতে তাঁতের কাপড় সস্তা এবং তাঁতের কাপড় টেঁকসই—এটা যদি ভালভাবে advertise করেন তাহলে লোকের মনে এ জিনিষের ধারণা হতে পারে যে তাঁতের কাপড় মিলের কাপড়ের মত সস্তা এবং তার চেয়েও ঢের বেশী টেকসই। তাহলে আজকে অনেকে বাংলাদেশে তাঁতের কাপড় পরতে পারে এবং অনেক হিন্দু ও মুসলমান তাঁতি তার দ্বারা জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ ক'রতে পারে। কিন্তু অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় যে, আজ ৫ বৎসর ধ'রে এই কথা বার বার তাদের কানের মধ্যে ঢুকিয়ে দিয়েও এ পর্য্যন্ত কোন কাজ তাঁরা ক'রতে পারেন নি। এ বিষয়ে হিন্দু-মুসলমানের কোন কথাই নাই, তবু কেন এই এত দিন ধরে Ministry আমাদের বুকের উপর বসে থাকা সত্বেও এই সামান্য কাজটুকু করতে পারেন নি। এ বিষয়ে সামান্য কাজ কোরে দেখেছি যে সামান্য একটু propaganda ক'রলে পর, একটু marketing facility দিলে পর তাঁতের কাপড়ের চাহিদা অত্যন্ত বেশী হয়ে যেতে পারে এবং আমি ৩ বৎসর কাজ কোরে দেখেছি যে তাঁতের কাপড়ের চাহিদা বেড়ে গিয়েছে। কিন্তু সে চেষ্টা যে জায়গায় করা হয়েছে তা কলিকাতা ও নিকটবর্ত্তী স্থানে; অন্য জায়গায় করা সম্ভব হয় নি। তাঁত শিল্প সম্বন্ধে সব চেয়ে বড় অসুবিধা হচ্চে সুতার এবং marketing facilityর, সে ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্টের করা উচিত। তা ছাড়া advertisement'ও দরকার। এই সামান্য কিছু জিনিষের

জন্য বেশী টাকা খরচ করার প্রয়োজন নাই এবং এ বিষয়ে Industrial Survey Committeeর রিপোর্টে বেশ পরিষ্কারভাবে ব'লে দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই জিনিষটা তাঁরা যদি করেন তাহ'লে অতি শীঘ্র এই সমস্যার সমাধান হ'তে পারে এবং বহু সহস্র তাঁতি নিজেদের জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ ক'রতে পারে এবং বাংলাদেশে বস্ত্র সমস্যার সমাধান হতে পারে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ সম্বন্ধে Industrial Syndicate ক'রেছেন, Syndicate কি function করে জানি না। আমি দেখেছি ৫ বৎসর Industrial Syndicate হয়েছে, কিন্তু কিছুই function করে নি এবং Industrial Syndicate তার কাজ কি তা জানে না। তার পর দেখেছি Bengal Home Industryর জন্য বহু সহস্র টাকা দিয়ে আস্‌চেন কিন্তু Bengal Home Industry যেটুকু কাজ করেছে এবং যে টাকা খরচ ক'রেছে সেই টাকা তাঁত শিল্পের advertisementএ খরচ করা হ'লে ভাল কাজ হ'ত। তাঁরা নানা রকম স্কীম করেন, কিন্তু সত্যকারের যাতে কাজ হয় সে রকম কিছুই করেন না। আমি আশা করি যে, আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহাশয় তিনি যখন এবার নূতন Industry Departmentএর কাজের ভার নিলেন, তখন এ বিষয়ে নিজে খোঁজ কোরে দেখবেন শুধু departmental officerএর উপর ভার দিয়ে নিশ্চিন্ত হবেন না। আমি আশা করি তিনি চেষ্টা করবেন এবং তিনি চেষ্টা কর্‌লে অনেক কিছু করা সম্ভব।

আর একটা কথা। আমি যেটা বলেছিলাম Co-operative Department সম্বন্ধে সেটা হচ্চে কো-অপারেটিভ ডিপার্টমেণ্টের সঙ্গে ইন্‌ডাষ্ট্রী ডিপার্টমেণ্টের co-ordination বিশেষভাবে দরকার, বিশেষতঃ এই তাঁত শিল্প সম্বন্ধে। কেননা দুজন দুটা ডিপার্টমেণ্ট থেকে কাজ করলে co-ordination যদি না হয় তার চেয়ে এক জন অফিসারের উপর তাঁত শিল্পের ভার দেওয়া হ'লে কাজ ভাল হ'তে পারে।

আর একটা কথা বাংলা দেশে বস্ত্র সমস্যা দেখা দিয়েছে। কারণ, বাংলা দেশে যে কাপড় তৈরী হয় সে কাপড় আমাদের যে চাহিদা তার $\frac{১}{১০}$ ভাগও নয় এবং এখন যে অবস্থা হয়েছে তাতে অন্য province থেকে wagon difficultyর জন্য কাপড় আনার অসুবিধা আছে। তা ছাড়া বাংলা দেশে যত মিল আছে তারা কাপড় খুব কম তৈরী করচে, বেশীর ভাগ তৈরী করচে war materials। তার ফলে এমন একটা অবস্থা খুব শীঘ্র আসা সম্ভব এবং আস্‌বেই যখন বাংলা দেশে কাপড়ের বিশেষ অভাব হবে। এই জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি এখন থেকে এ দিকে নজর না দেন তাহলে বাস্তবিকই এ সমস্যার সমাধান করা সম্ভব হবে না।

আর একটা সমস্যা রয়েছে, সুতার সমস্যা; বাংলাদেশে সুতা কম তৈরী হয়, বেশীর ভাগ সুতা আসে মাদ্রাজ থেকে। এখন থেকে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁতিরা যাতে সস্তায় সুতা পায় তার ব্যবস্থা না কর্‌লে দিন কতক পরে সুতার সমস্যা হবে এবং যাঁরা এ বিষয়ে study করেন তাঁরা বুঝ্‌তে পারেন যে এখন থেকে hand-spun yarnএর জন্য চরকার ব্যবস্থা না ক'রলে সুতা সমস্যার সমাধান হওয়া সম্ভব নয়। এ জন্য গ্রামে গ্রামে চরকার প্রচলন করা এবং তার জন্য তুলার ব্যবস্থা করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের একান্ত কর্ত্তব্য। আমি আশা করি আমাদের এই সমস্যা সমাধানের

জন্য মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় নিজে ভাল কোরে দেখ্‌বেন এবং তাঁত শিল্প সম্বন্ধে একটা কমিটি করবেন যাতে তিনি থাক্‌বেন, কো-অপারেটিভ ডিপার্টমেণ্টের মিনিষ্টার থাক্‌বেন, ফাইন্যান্স মিনিষ্টার থাক্‌বেন (কারণ Finance Minister না থাক্‌লে টাকা পাওয়া যাবে না), তা ছাড়া Director of Industries এবং Registrar of Co-operative Societies থাক্‌বেন এবং তদুপরি যে সমস্ত জেলায় তাঁত শিল্পের প্রচলন আছে সেখান থেকে তাঁতি শিল্প সম্বন্ধে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন কয়েকজন মেম্বর নিয়ে immediately একটা কমিটি form ক'র্‌বেন। বাংলাদেশে তাঁত শিল্পের উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই রকম একটা ব্যবস্থা ক'রতে পারেন।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the want of policy of Government for industrialisation of the province.

Sir, it has become the usual habit of Government to ignore anything said from the Opposition benches but in this particular question, in view of the importance of the subject-matter, I would request the Minister in charge to give the utmost attention to the observations made on so vital a subject as the industrialisation of the Province. The matter is neither communal or sectarian nor, in any way, connected with any particular class. Nor again does it raise question of the rich and the poor, or of a majority or a minority. It is on the other hand, a matter in the effective and successful handling of which lies the solution of the general well-being of the Province as a whole. If the members of the Treasury Bench desire that ways and means must be devised so as to promote the advancement and material prosperity of Bengal then I would appeal to them to consider the question of the formulation of a well-planned policy of industrialisation and pay due attention to my submissions even though these come from a member of the Muslim League Party. The Department of Industries is the one department of Government which can be well and truly called a nation-building one, and it is the one Department in which any amount of money can be safely invested with the dual purpose of helping the people and bringing in a profitable return at the one and the same time.

Sir, there is a general misconception to the effect that if public money is invested in industries it will only go to the benefit of people living in urban areas and may prove harmful to rural interests. But I would like to point out that this misunderstanding is unfortunate and without any reason. The development of industries will not benefit any particular class, creed or community or any section of the population, but will redound to the benefit of the province as a whole. It

is a matter which will directly and indirectly contribute to the well-being of the entire populace of our province. Therefore, the government should pay more attention to this department in preference to all other departments. I may mention in this connection, the House the other day voted a sum of Rs. 23,50,000 for Debt Conciliation, an amount which is more than the provision of Rs. 17,40,000 for this Department. The amount of Rs. 23,50,000 would not have been necessary for expenditure for Debt Conciliation if the government had paid sufficient attention to this Department in order to ensure the material prosperity of the masses by a bold policy of industrialisation. Now we have to incur heavy expenditure to atone for the mistakes made in the past. Prevention is better than cure. It is also something like spending on medicines and doctor's bills rather than feeding and looking after a person before he falls sick. Therefore, we should now seriously set ourselves to the task of taking up this question in a way calculated to solve the problem of the abject poverty of our people. Agriculture is no longer able to support the growing population of the country and unless we take resort to industries to not only meet the needs of the hour but to raise and keep up the standard of living of the masses a serious situation is likely to arise which may result in untold miseries.

In this view of the matter the Department of Industries is being starved and adequate provision has not been made for the development and growth of industries in the province. It is a pity that out of a total provincial revenue of Rs. 16½ crores a meagre amount of Rs. 17,40,000 is provided for the Department of Industries on which the prosperity of the province depends. I do not think the Government will ever be in a position to industrialise the province unless they come forward with a much larger sum. If necessary, several minor departments of Government should be sacrificed to meet the requirements for a bold and comprehensive policy of industrialisation of the country on a planned basis spread over a number of years. It goes without saying that the salvation of a country and the betterment and well-being of its people lies in the development of industries. If we develop industries we solve the much-vexed problem of unemployment and nobody can deny that industrialisation will also considerably improve the condition of the peasantry.

Sir, I want to impress upon Government the very great urgency of this question. Due to war conditions export and import facilities have ceased with the result that we are faced with increased cost of all imported articles and at the same time decrease in price of our raw materials. Previously when raw-materials could be freely exported the prices were high but now due to shortage of shipping the prices have fallen to subnormal level with the result that our agriculturists—the producers of raw materials—have been badly hit. The time is, therefore, opportune for the establishment of major and minor industries

throughout the length and breadth of this great province of ours so that our own materials may be consumed at home and the price level maintained. This will directly help our agriculturists and other growers of raw materials.

Sir, the much-vexed question of a minimum price of jute becomes easy of solution if Government, in accordance with a policy of industrialisation, starts State-owned jute mills with borrowed capital which will be easily forthcoming, in several parts of the province. These State factories could purchase jute direct from the growers through their own agents and thus counteract the manipulation of the market by mill-owners unsympathetic to the interest of the people. State factories could thus control the monopoly of the manufacture of jute products and thus ensure the maintenance of the price level at a fixed rate. This would serve the two-fold purpose of contributing to the prosperity of the peasantry and at the same time prevent the exploitation of our natural resources by foreign capital. Furthermore, Sir, industries will have to play a very dominant part in the reconstruction of post-war India and unless effective and adequate steps are now taken to build up our industries a great deal of our money is likely to be drained out of our country in importation of goods and materials that will then be essentially necessary for the purpose. This possibility of drainage must be prevented by foresight on the part of those who are committed to the task of the administration of the affairs of this province.

Sir, the last Ministry did realise the need of the hour in this direction and constituted an Industrial Survey Committee. An Industrial survey is pre-requisite to the framing of any comprehensive programme of industrialisation. But the budget provisions disclose the absence of any substantial provision for a programme of work which may be envisaged by the committee set up. We are apprehensive, therefore, that the present Government does not realise the grave import of the question. If the Government were really sympathetic towards this all-important needs of the moment they would have unhesitatingly made provision for the establishment of a few State-owned or State-aided industries employing some twenty thousand persons for the manufacture of some articles of common use. And with a view to creating public confidence Government should have put forward some tangible scheme which when carried out would add to the manufactured wealth of the province. Besides, these factories would have served as a model to the enterprising people who would have derived the fullest possible benefit out of them. If the Government take the initiative in this direction, as is the practice in all the countries of the world, the public would certainly take to the manufacture of such articles more readily and thus many an avenue would come into existence for giving employment to the great educated unemployed

community in our province whose number is legion. This would have afforded a chance for the mitigation of the misery and suffering of these unfortunate people. But the difficulty is that the scanty budget allotment discloses the intention of Government to tinker with this vast problem and the meagre amount of Rs. 17,40,000 will not be sufficient even to touch the fringe of the subject-matter of my discussion to-day.

Now, Sir, before I conclude I want to draw the pointed attention of Government to another aspect of this question which also should receive the serious considerations of Government. The problem of unemployment which has become very acute in this province cannot be tackled properly unless radical overhauling is made in the present system of education. I am voicing the opinion of the majority of my educated countrymen when I say that introduction of some sort of industrial education in the curricula of our educational institutions is essential for overcoming this evil. The present system of bookish education is largely responsible for swelling the ranks of the unemployed post-graduates, graduates and under-graduates who are ill-equipped to pursue any avocation for independent earning. I think the House will agree with me when I say that the Government will be well-advised to devote their attention to the setting up of more industrial schools and making industry as one of the selective subjects in all Government and aided schools. And further they should provide scope and opportunities to students to receive training in some particular vocation so that they may be enabled to start business independently after completion of their student career.

Before resuming my seat I earnestly appeal to the Government to pay much greater attention to industries. The industrialisation of the province is the only hope of salvation for the province as it will help its all-round development and progress and the agriculturists will get more price for their raw materials and labour. The capitalists will also have their due share of profits, thus adding to the prosperity of the land. The millions of unemployed will get food and work and skilled labour will fetch competitive wages. Thus it will contribute to the well-being of all the sections of our population. But if nothing is done in this direction the province will ever remain a market for foreign provinces and countries and we shall have to depend on others for even common articles of necessity.

Mr. NIKUNJA BIHARI MAITI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity for providing money for *khadi* and other village industries, and for seeking

co-operation of the All-India Village Industries Association (Bengal Branch) and All-India Spinners' Association (Bengal Branch) in the development of the work in this department.

Sir, I need not go into the details as to why this state of things was brought about, but the result has been that almost the whole people inhabiting this land have become dependent on agriculture for their maintenance. The pressure on land has been so heavy that it cannot bear it even if agriculture is made more extensive as well as intensive. We must, therefore, develop our industries but in view of the difficulties at the present moment in the matter of transport facilities and of finding capital and because of the want of expert knowledge and enterprise it is not possible to start large-scale industries. The industries that are possible now and that are required by circumstances, both external and internal, are village industries. These industries, if developed, will go a great way to relieve the sufferings of the people in the countryside. These industries are particularly concerned with our elementary requirements, such as cloth and other articles of daily use in rural areas. There are two organisations which are working with this end in view, namely, the All-India Village Industries Association (Bengal Branch) and the All-India Spinners' Association (Bengal Branch). They are conducted by selfless men of integrity, honesty and intelligence and are manned by a set of sincere workers who work only for the love of work on a mere pittance. The following figures of the All-India Spinners' Association will speak for themselves. Yarn produced in 1940 was 2,703,351 lbs.; number of villages concerned was 13,451; spinners engaged were 254,968; the number of weavers is 16,801; others were 4,377. The total number of artisans employed is 276,146. Wages given to spinners amount to Rs. 19,00,344; wages given to weavers amount to Rs. 10,81,454; wages given to others amount to Rs. 4,83,611. The total under wages comes up to Rs. 34,65,409.

Now, Sir, the *khadi* produced by spinners is worth Rs. 3,47,436. The number of habitual *khadi*-wearers among spinners is 23·7 per cent. and that of habitual *khadi*-wearers among weavers is 68·3 per cent.

The amount of silk production is worth Rs. 4,57,514 and the amount of wool production is worth Rs. 2,84,611. The total amount of wages distributed between 1924 and 1940 is Rs. 3,59,73,443.

Sir, the Sangha has been serving all communities alike. 276,146 artisans engaged by the Sangha belong to the various communities as follows: the number of Harijans is 19,645; other Hindus 170,273; Muslims 57,378 and those regarding whom information has not been received 28,850.

The progress achieved by *khadi* in a short span of years, mostly by popular support and encouragement with little, if any, aid from the Government, is indicated by the fact that in 1928-29 the amount of

production was worth Rs. 31 lakhs and the amount of sale was worth Rs. 39 lakhs whereas in 1940 the amount of production was worth Rs. 51 lakhs and the amount of sale was worth Rs. 77 lakhs.

As regards the work of the Bengal Branch run by Sj. Annada Prasad Chowdhury, I should only mention two things. First, its work in giving relief to the poor people in the form of spinning has been of the greatest help in times of flood, famine and drought as well as in normal times in the shape of giving employment and thereby adding a few pies to their daily income.

Secondly, the number of Muslim spinners is much more than that of the Hindu spinners in Bengal.

As regards the All-India Village Industries Association, it is engaged now in the following items of work among the villagers:—

(1) rice-pounding and flour grinding,
(2) oil-pressing,
(3) gur-making,
(4) bee-keeping,
(5) paper-making,
(6) soap-making,
(7) dairy work,
(8) tanning and leather work,
(9) horn work,
(10) button-making,
(11) coir-spinning and weaving,
(12) mat and basket-making,
(13) slate pencil manufacture,
(14) vegetable oil lamp, and
(15) manufacture of boiled oil and paint.

Of course, the Bengal Branch of the All-India Village Industries Association is not engaged in all the works above-mentioned, and some of these works are, I am aware, encouraged by the Industries Department. But, Sir, what I do suggest on behalf of this party is, first, to take cognisance of and appreciate the work done by these non-political bodies in the countryside; secondly, to give grants-in-aid to these bodies, as other Governments have done, for further prosecution of these works amongst our villagers; and thirdly, to collaborate with and seek co-operation from these bodies in developing the Industries Department on desirable lines. It is both a privilege and a pleasure and it is also a profit to meet and talk with the unassuming but most efficient and circumspect secretary in charge of these departments—Sri Annada Prasad Chowdhury.

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Before I say anything on the subject of metals and the development of metallurgical industry in Bengal, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the point that taking shelter behind the Government of India or the restrictions imposed upon the liberties of the activities of the other sections of the administration of the Province, by the Finance Department will prove of no avail. They do not carry conviction to us. I know we are engaged in these discussions at a time when things are not normal. In spite of that, I hold that if the Hon'ble Minister, who was in charge of this department earlier during the life of the present Assembly, still retains any of his old dreams, it should be possible for him to impress upon his colleague in the Finance Department, that if he cannot give him any money out of public revenues for the schemes the Industries Department has put up, this is the time when he should borrow money and apply it to remunerative industries and help Bengal, so bountifully gifted by nature, to establish itself upon an industrial basis which might redound to his credit and to the benefit of the people now and in time to come. We have allowed the policy of *Laissez-faire* too long. A demand is made, there is a discussion, sometimes voting takes place and then nothing is done. Things go on as they have been going along and no step forward is taken.

I should like to draw the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the Board of Industries in Bengal. It has a high-sounding name. I have been Chairman of it twice and have been a member of it for some time longer. We have become, at best, a money-lending body. It will perhaps be better to transfer us to the department which controls the activities of persons under the Money-lenders Act, for money-lenders may give money to me as and when I need it, but under the slow-moving machinery of the Board, if I want Rs. 200, I have to wait almost for six months. An amendment of the Act was contemplated two years ago but things that go into the Secretariat seldom come out. We have not heard of any amendment. The Board of Industries should be permitted to justify the high-sounding name that has been given to it and it should be enabled really to control the destinies of the industries of Bengal in a more efficient manner. It should have more power and a wider scope of activities, untrammelled by Secretariat control.

There is also the Industrial Survey Committee. It seems to be a committee of lotus-eaters. Two years have gone by but very little has

been done. Interim reports have been submitted on different industries but nothing tangible in the shape of a general survey has yet taken shape. We are dragging along in a miserable way. I happen to be a member of this Committee also and I feel that in spite of the danger which is looming large, I think, it is possible for this Committee to go ahead. If the rumour that Government is contemplating that its work should be wound up, is correct, Bengal will have to face another period of industrial lethargy until an armistice is signed, peace is concluded and the world is reshaped. This should be avoided. The Hon'ble Minister will be fully justified in gingering up things at once and immediately with the recommendation to the Finance Department that if there is no money in the coffers of the Government, money is cheap outside the coffers of the Government and it should be borrowed in as large a measure as necessary. One can speak on basic industries, middle industries, small industries, cottage industries, war industries and so on and how these can be financed and what should be done to keep them alive. I shall not enter into any details at this stage because the Industrial Survey Committee has submitted an interim report on the best means of financing of industries of all types in Bengal. I think the Hon'ble Minister and his department will pay attention to this aspect of the matter at as early a date as possible.

As regards the report of the Jails Industries Enquiry Committee, I am afraid it has gone into the limbo of the Secretariat. I do not know what action has been taken on it.

There are two points to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister pointedly. I have come to the conclusion that if jute holds the first place in our list of industries, the time has now come for the Government and the people of this province to decide what, industrially speaking, should take the second place. The work of the Sericulture Department and the advance they have made not only in the improvement of cocoon but also of the mulberry bush, are to our advantage. They have made great strides, and with the Conditioning Plant in Calcutta, it is possible now to produce silk as good as Japanese silk and certainly better than Mysore and Kashmir silk. We can produce enough silk, and with our many reeling institutions, if subsidised properly, I think we can establish silk on a sound footing in Bengal which will hold the first place in India. We may even produce enough not only for India but also for countries outside.

I want to refer the Hon'ble Minister to my general remarks on the Financial Statement of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, with regard to the condition of weavers in Bengal. Thousands are roaming breadless and homeless, not because they are not competent to do the work but because they cannot get yarn. It is the duty of Government to force the Central Government to find yarn for the weavers of Bengal. If the Ministers have surrendered themselves to the Government of

India on their jute policy, of which we heard yesterday a most pathetic utterance from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, I see no reason why these gentlemen, if they want to assert themselves and fight for the people of Bengal, cannot force the Government of India to find yarn for our weavers. If they do not do it, there will be trouble in the countryside and general civil commotion in the areas where these poor weavers used to work and eke out a living. I would particularly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to consider seriously the question of the expansion of the silk industry and the supply of yarn to our weavers who are, as I have said, roaming breadless and homeless throughout the province.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the utter neglect of duty so far as the cottage shoe and other leather industries of Bengal are concerned.

Sir, in moving my cut motion I cannot help imputing this blame upon the Government by saying that the Government is totally ignoring the importance of the cottage boot and shoe-making industries and other cottage leather industries of this province by not having any provision in the next year's budget. Throughout the budget, Sir, you will not find that any steps have been taken by the Government for these industries. This practically brings us to the conclusion that the Government is not keen and anxious in the least about this boot and shoe-making industries and other industries of leather goods. Nobody will deny that these industries are the most important industries, because the goods and articles produced by these industries are the essentials of life; and nobody can do without them nowadays in the present scientific world. This imputation of mine can be clearly borne out even by the current year's provisions,—the year that will come to an end by this month of March, 1942. Now, Sir, if you go into details as to what Government has done, this year you will see, Sir, that there is only one school in Calcutta and three other demonstrative parties in different parts of Bengal for the purpose of imparting training in the making of boots and shoes and other leather goods. Only the school at Calcutta is functioning to some extent whereas those three other demonstrative parties were quite idle and they did nothing during the current year. This is not all, Sir. Do you know how many students are there in the Calcutta School which is the only functioning one? The number of students who are getting training there is only about 10 or 12. It is quite evident from this, Sir, that the Government is not at all encouraging the people of Bengal and specially those Ruhidas people to flow in and to have training in these lines. The caste profession of these Ruhidas people is making of

leather goods. They are so poor and at the same time so uneducated that they do not even know whether there are such schools and peripatetic demonstrating parties to train people in these subjects. Moreover, Sir, in order to draw the attention of these people Government should award large number of stipends so that they may be attracted towards this sort of training parties and as a result of this they will flow in in large numbers. On the contrary what the last Government had done was that they granted four stipends and out of them three were given to Musalmans and one to a caste Hindu. Under these circumstances, how can it be expected that a large number of students will seek training in those schools and training parties? From this it will be clear, Sir, that the Government was and is not encouraging the proper people whose caste profession is, and who are quite adept in, leather goods making, but is encouraging some other people who are generally averse to this sort of profession.

Then, Sir, as regards tanning, the same thing practically is repeated. Here also proper scope and encouragement is not given to the Ruhidas people of Bengal. Amongst the students who are now studying in the Bengal Tanning Institute, you will see, Sir, the majority is caste Hindus and Musalmans. And even the stipends and scholarships that are awarded, the majority of them are given to the caste Hindus and Musalmans. In this Tanning Institute there are only seven scholarships and out of them only two are given to the scheduled castes community.

On going through all these deeds and activities of the Government, it becomes quite obvious that it is nothing but a thought-out plan of the Government that even from the economic field the scheduled caste community should remain as an outcaste, as they are already in society.

This system and the angle of vision of imparting training of boot and shoe-making and the making of other leather goods should be changed and thoroughly overhauled by the Government and it should be directed in such a way that a greater impetus should be given towards the encouragement of the scheduled caste community who are better adept to this sort of work.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the policy and apathy of Government for the industrial development of the country.

I like to confine my observations on the development of cottage industries at present. Owing to war condition, big industry is not possible as machinery is not available.

Sir, during the course of last five years many weaving and industrial schools have been started by private enterprise and they are not

getting sufficient aids to develop. I represented these facts to the Hon'ble Minister on 29th March, 1941, and in reply the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in charge of Industries informed me by his letter No. 1505 (44), dated the 17th May, 1941, that "A scheme for augmenting the Director of Industries' grant in aid fund by three lakhs recurring and 1½ lakhs non-recurring, both spread over three years, is at present under consideration of the Government". But I am extremely sorry to find that no such provision has been made in the budget of 1942-43. On the other hand a sum of Rs. 1,02,000 has been provided for development of fisheries, a scheme which was taken over several times before this but abandoned after spending some money as it was a failure. So, no money should be spent at this moment and it should be transferred for grant-in-aid (maintenance grant). Budget shows at page 104 of the Red Book that though a provision of Rs. 2,26,000 has been made in 1941-42 for the scheme for marketing of cottage industry products, the money has not at all been spent and no such depot for supply of raw materials to the weavers has been established which is the crying need of the weavers. We want this immediately instead of fishery. No explanation has been given for non-utilisation of this money. This shows great apathy of the Government for the development of cottage industry. We demand supply of raw materials to the half-fed weavers at cheap rate and opening of a depot in every district headquarters where a large number of weavers exist.

Sir, Government must be aware that during the last 2 years since the outbreak of war price of mill yarn has gone up so high that it became almost impossible to make any profit by weaving cloth as the middlemen who deal in yarn raised the price, in some cases cent. per cent. We have represented this fact to the Government and to the Fact Finding Committee appointed by the Government of India and requested them to make some arrangements with the Mills so that certain percentage of their outturn may be released to the weavers of Bengal but all our attempts failed.

Since the inauguration of this reformed Government we repeatedly urged them to establish a spinning mill for the purpose of supplying yarn to the poor weavers. We understand that a scheme was submitted to the Government by the Director of Industries but it was not translated into action. We strongly urge the Government to devise some ways and means to supply yarns at moderate prices to the half-starved weavers of Bengal and thus save the most important industry of the country where lakhs of persons are employed.

As regards the training of students in artisan class of the District Weaving Schools for a period of one year only it is simply waste of money and energy. Formerly it was intended for the sons of weavers. Now the situation has been changed. Sons of *Bhadralogs* and educated

young men are going to learn weaving to earn means of livelihood but most of them as soon as they leave the school hanker for service and when they do not get any, they give up the idea of weaving as profession because their training was not perfect and they do not dare to adopt it as profession. Though there is a provision to give them loan to start profession very few of them take this advantage as they have no confidence of success and neither there is any organisation behind them in the Industries Department like the Co-operative Department. I would, therefore, urge the Government to increase the term of training from 1 to 2 years and keep an organisation behind them to push up their sale and supply.

Sir, there are several other cottage industries experiment of which has been successful such as pottery, leather-tanning and trading, etc. but most of them have not yet been placed on sound commercial basis. This should be pushed up.

Sir, there had been 2 schemes of Leather-tanning and Trading School, one at Dacca and the other at Chittagong. The administrative approval was accorded to Dacca scheme and the site for Chittagong had been selected by a Committee and I was prepared to make a free gift of the land. The matter was under correspondence for 2-3 years but ultimately nothing has been done. This is most deplorable. Will the Government see their way now to take up these 2 schemes in right earnest? If not, let the Government say that all money is required for communal harmony and that unless it is gained, no industrial development will be possible.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the administration of the Industries Department and failure to promote the industrial efforts of the province.

I have carefully listened to the speeches and observations made by different honourable members of the House to-day and also had occasion to study the questions and observations made on previous occasions. It has given me the impression that there must be something wrong somewhere which has led to such a state of affairs in the province in which a Department which is supposed to look after the improvement in the all round industrial efforts of the province has not been functioning properly and I have, therefore, chosen to raise a discussion on this aspect of the question.

Sir, during the last few years we had been insistently demanding that there should be a well thought-out scheme and well-planned development of industries in the province. The Hon'ble Minister in charge had himself issued a White Paper in which he had outlined

some of the policies that he had in view in this connection and yet, Sir, during the last few years time has rolled on without any achievement. We have been from time to time introduced to certain minor schemes but most of them have either ended in failure or have remained in the wombs of the Secretariat. It is now high time that we should examine the administration of the Department to find out how far the fault lies in the Department itself and how far it is somewhere else. My friend Mr. Abdul Karim has to-day given a very lucid account of the policy that should be adopted in the province of Bengal for industrial uplift. I congratulate him for this brilliant piece of contribution to to-day's debate. He as well as my esteemed friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi who had been associated with the Industries Department for some time have given accounts of some amount of failure of the Department in various directions. In particular, we have noticed that during the last few years whatever scheme had been brought to light from the Industries Department has either not been properly weighed and examined or has ultimately led to a loss of revenue of the province of Bengal In the course of the Public Accounts Committee discussions last year we have discovered that many schemes that have been introduced with tall promises have ultimately led to a serious loss of revenue of the province and often the schemes initiated by the present Director of Industries have not been properly drawn up. Therefore, I feel that there is a case made out for an immediate and thorough enquiry into the activities of the Department. The present Director of Industries is an Indian officer coming from a very reputed family We had entertained very high hopes of him, but it has been discovered that during the last few years that esteemed gentleman is more interested in things that he is not required to do than in things that he is expected to do.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: What is the name of that officer?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I hope the Lady Parliamentary Secretary would not insist on having the name stated in the House. She at least would be able to find out the name.

That officer has had castigation from a Tribunal for having interested himself in activities in which he had never been expected to be involved. Even thereafter we find that he is taking interests in things where his interest is not wanted whereas so far as his own Department is concerned he is most negligent in his duties. He may be a hard working person. I daresay he is because he has to please numerous parties and factions and probably he works late at night. But even then the Department for which he has to work goes on without proper attention. That is an unfortunate state of affairs to which I want to draw attention. Sir, whether it is in connection with the detenu-training scheme or it is in connection with the peripatetic

scheme for training various kinds of artisans or it is in connection with the Industrial Survey Committee or it is in connection with certain training institutes in connection with the jute industry, in every case we have met with a sad tale of incompetence of this Department and a thorough failure in pursuing a planned policy in connection with any measure taken.

Of late, Sir, we have found that this office in utter negligence of the work entrusted to it has been practically converted into a department of war-supply for which there are special offices and officers appointed by the Government of India. Sir, this department at the present moment has been functioning for no other work than appointing some suppliers as contractors to the War Supply Department of the Government of India. And we fail to understand how from the provincial revenues money is being squeezed out in this back door method for maintaining a department which should come under the Military head and the expenses of which should be met from the Military budget. Sir, I have had occasion to examine in detail one or two activities of this department. I am particularly interested in drawing your attention to the case of supply of *sola* hat shapes. Here one finds that that department has practically ousted the local dealers, contractors and artisans and has arrogated to itself the position of a contractor on a small meagre margin of profit. What is happening is this: in certain parts of Murshidabad and Nadia organisations of large cottage industries have developed for the manufacture of *sola* hat shapes. These were organised by private business men and they were developing it at a great sacrifice for the last few years. With great success they have been supplying to the Government of India direct under the orders of the War Supply Department. The ubiquitous Department of Industries of the Government of Bengal thought, here was a chance for themselves to be pet children of the Government of India, and they proposed that instead of these merchants they could themselves supply hats at lower costs. The lower cost amounted to one pice per hat only which they offered and against that they involved the Government of Bengal into an additional expenditure on account of the supervising staff. Some of the staff that were otherwise engaged or required to be engaged in developing the industries in the province and to look after the work of the Industries Department were taken away to look after this work. As a result thereof those private manufacturers of *sola* hats have been converted into sub-contractors under the Industries Department who could not get anything from the artisans. How was this done? It would be shocking to find out how the independent businessmen have been reduced to their present miserable position. When the Industries Department found that the orders were placed by the War Supply Department direct, through themselves as well as through other private dealers, they approached the Railway Department to stop the movement of *sola* hats through any

parties other than those certified by the Government of Bengal. When this was brought to the notice of the Railway Department, the Railway Department felt that it was illegal and that they could not possibly stop the same kind of traffic discriminatingly and they wrote back to the Department of Industries asking them to produce the authority under which they asked the Railway Department to have discrimination in the matter of booking of traffic, particularly when both the traffic were meant for one purchasing department, namely, the War Supply Department. There was no question here of discrimination in favour of a particular department in order to help the war effort. The war effort was rather jeopardised by this action and yet, Sir, the Government of Bengal through some wonderful machinery manipulated to get the Defence of India Rules promulgated under which they ordered the Railway Department not to book any *sola* traffic without the sanction of the District Magistrate concerned and the result was that the District Magistrate was influenced by the Industries Department of the Government of Bengal not to give permits to any other party than those approved by the Industries Department of the Government of Bengal. As a result, only the parties approved of by the Industries Department could get traffic booked and, therefore, the parties who had built up the industry at a great sacrifice and had spent a lot of money on it, have to go to the Industries Department as sub-contractors to supply the same stuff through the Industries Department. And what was the result? There were two intermediaries instead of one, and the poor artisan's pocket was touched because the artisans had to pay for them while the price of the *sola* hats for sale to the Government of India was fixed. There are two intermediaries—one, the Department of Industries of the Government of Bengal, and the other, the private business men, and obviously it was the artisans who had to suffer as a result thereof. The trouble did not stop there. Another wonderful device was adopted by which the movement of raw *sola* sticks was commandeered. The result was that the artisans living in the district of Nadia who were using such raw *sola* as is produced in Jessore and Nadia found that they were short of supply of *sola* sticks, and cartloads—ordinary bullock cartloads—of *sola* sticks were now coming from distances of about 100 miles because the railways would not carry the *sola* sticks. This is surely not helping the war effort in the matter of war supplies. I condemn such interference on the part of the Industries Department in matters where their help is not needed. On the other hand, probably their activities would be welcome in the matter of development of cottage industries of the character of handloom and the supply of various metal products like the bell-metal products of Murshidabad which, at the present moment, should have a very good market. But the Industries Department is thoroughly negligent in its duty towards such cottage industries. Only two items that they have pushed up are the camouflage net

industry and the *sola* hat industry. They tried to develop, or rather help in the development of the supply of blankets also, but there they have miserably failed. It is our suggestion and humble submission to the Minister in charge to let them try to develop such cottage industries where private enterprise has not been sufficiently organised so that with the help of Government new industries may develop, let them not try to show their merit by capturing the existing cottage industries and thereby trying to hoodwink the people that they have done a very good thing for Bengal and let them not try only to place themselves in the position of private dealers and businessmen. And how these Departmental enterprises are being run? The Government of Bengal have not given them any money. The Director of Industries is taking loans from various parties and he is trying to get these organised through efforts not known to the Government of Bengal. All this loan money is organised in a very clever way through the contractors who come under his control and the contractors advance money in the belief that there is the Government behind it. But when they come to realise the money they discover that there is no responsibility of the Government. Sir, numerous such instances will soon come to light, and you will not be surprised if in course of time certain ugly things are disclosed. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will look into this very carefully.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Minister in charge was called upon to reply.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I would request you to allow one speaker from our side to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The difficulty is that I am to be guided by the Governor's rule, particularly to-day, when the business of the House is to be finished half an hour before the usual time.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, we will not put up any other speaker. So I would request you to kindly allow Mr. Abdulla-al Mahmood to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is no division I can extend the time by five minutes for your party and five minutes for the other party.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an admitted fact that agriculture forms the backbone of the country and the improvement of agriculture is the improvement of the agriculturists. But,

Sir, we have seen and there are authoritative reports that on account of the density of population and scarcity of land agriculture now has ceased to be a lucrative profession. Therefore, Sir, industry must come to its rescue. From the Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee's Report, 1929, we find that a family consisting of 5 persons has an annual income of Rs. 220 to Rs. 225. It comes to practically 3 rupees and a few annas per man just to maintain himself throughout the month. Now, Sir, it is easily imaginable whether this money is sufficient to maintain his self and meet his other indispensable needs which are very small. Therefore, Sir, industry must have the best consideration and deserves special attention of the Government. It has been suggested, and we have seen that the big industries which have grown up in this country—I might say without fear of contradiction—are capitalistic institutions and these are absolutely run on business lines and are of no help to the poor people at large. The State should come to the rescue of the people and Government must spend from its purse and see that the big industries such as cotton mills are established in rural areas.

Now, Sir, if the Government finds it impracticable on account of this emergency and on account of want of finance, then I suggest that Government should adopt other means to help the poor agriculturists so that they may get two square meals a day. As some other friends have already pointed out handloom weaving industry and coir-matting and other small industries might be helped by the Government. The small money that is now financed by the Industries Department is quite inadequate for the purpose.

In this connection I must say that on account of jute restriction a sufficient quantity of land has been released. May I know what the Government is going to do with this quantity of land? We know that the Floud Commission Report has recommended that 25 more sugar factories can be established throughout Bengal. I do not know whether the Government has seriously considered this matter in view of the fact that Bengal is not self-supporting in sugar. When other provinces can establish sugar mills and can supply sugar to this province, I do not understand why Bengal should lag behind.

Therefore, Sir, it is my earnest appeal that the Government must give its earnest consideration to this humble suggestion of mine.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words in support of what my honourable friend Dr. Sanyal has said about the administration of this department, although I do not agree entirely with all Dr. Sanyal has said, because I believe that the present time gives us opportunities to link small and cottage industries with big industry. I would like to give two illustrations to this House

because I feel that this department has failed at the present time to take full opportunity to make the best use of small and cottage industries for the benefit of the province.

In May, 1941, the Supply Department advised the Indian Jute Mills Association that Government had been relying upon using Sisal and Hemp Twine for the manufacture of camouflage nets but it seemed probable that the supply of these fibres for camouflage nets would not be sufficient. In the circumstances the industry was asked that investigation should be made into the question of using camouflage nets made from jute twine. The Research Department of the Indian Jute Mills Association carried out research on Jute for camouflage nets and the Research Department under the Indian Central Jute Committee did the same. As a result of the combined work of the Research Departments and the Industry, camouflage nets made from jute twine can be produced equal to if not better than those made from the hemp twine used for this purpose. The two principal features required in the ordinary type of camouflage nets are strength and resistance to atmospheric exposure. The necessary strength can easily be met in jute, and recent experiments have shown that there is very little difference between jute and sun hemp in their rates of deterioration. Reviewing the whole position, from the four most important aspects, namely,—

(1) Scientific.

(2) Cost.

(3) Maintenance of Supply.

(4) Production.

The points which favour jute and which should be stressed by this provincial department are—

There is no difficulty over supplies of the raw fibre.

The yarns can be machine-spun, to an equal regularity with hemp yarns which are machine-spun, but of greater regularity than hemp yarns which are hand-spun.

The output of yarns, twine and nets can be extended at a moment's notice to unlimited quantities.

Chemical proofing treatments can be done without any difficulty and under expert supervision.

I have given all these facts to ensure that where the demand for camouflage nets cannot be met from Hemp or Sisal, jute will be used. I am asking the Hon'ble Minister to do this because I feel that the Director of Industries in this province has done nothing to get jute given a fair chance for this work. I understand that there is a fear that cottage industries may suffer if the jute mills are given orders

for camouflage nets but I state that no difficulty need stand in the way of jute twine being made in the mills and thereafter sent to the villages where the nets could be manufactured. An organisation such as the Indian Jute Mills Association can co-operate with the Industries Department and operation through a centralised control would eliminate delay, simplify production, collection and delivery. At this time when it is difficult to export jute, I think that every avenue should be made open for the increased consumption of jute in the province. I am not suggesting for one moment that the hemp interests should be affected, but I do suggest that this demand for camouflage nets which is likely to increase should be met from jute and the Department of Industries should encourage and do everything possible to help the introduction of jute camouflage nets made in the province.

Another point, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to and I will finish. In view of a possible shortage of wooden goods used in the jute industry owing to the war the Indian Jute Mills Association approached the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and enquired whether the Institute considered that the jute mills requirements could be met by Indian woods and also what progress had been made towards the proper seasoning of these woods, seasoning having been the drawback of the indigenous woods when this matter was considered previously.

The Director of Industries, Bengal, was informed of what had been done, and the suggestion made that the possible difficulties likely to be experienced in this connection afforded an opportunity for the development of an indigenous industry in Bengal. Although one year has passed I regret to say no reply has yet been received from the Director of Industries.

Sir, I would like to have said more but I won't say any more this morning. These are my main points.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I am very grateful to all those members who have spoken today for their very helpful suggestions and criticisms in regard to the Department of Industries. I will first refer to the speech of my friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. Even if he may be sitting on the opposite Benches he knows that my mind and his mind are one in regard to the question of industrialisation of this province of Bengal. He also knows very well how I have been thwarted in the matter of industrialisation, how several very big schemes—some of which were drawn up according to his advice—which I approved when placed before the Government had been thrown out, because there were in the Cabinet certain greater experts than us and that is why those schemes had been thrown

out. I believe today that if those schemes had been introduced, it would have solved most of the problems which we are now facing. Those schemes were thwarted because of the then Finance Minister who is today sitting in another assembly which is much bigger and larger than this one. I fully agree with my friend that Bengal cannot proceed to be a nation unless industrialisation is increased. Several times before this House I made statements explaining the difficulties which I had and I wish to tell this House again that this is not so easy a thing as people think.

Before I proceed to speak about industries let me deal straightaway with the complaint made by my friend Dr. Sanyal in regard to Industries Department in relation to war production. As far as I have been given to understand by the Controller of War Supplies as well as by the letter which I have received from the Government of India, I can say that the Government of India and the Controller of War Supplies are well satisfied that Bengal of all other provinces has fulfilled all the orders that had been placed before it in a most satisfactory and reasonable manner, and it has helped the Government of India in reducing the cost by several lakhs of rupees in regard to production. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: At the cost of Bengal Government?) Just listen to me. When I wanted to make an enquiry at whose cost that was done I have been told that it has been possible for the Director of Industries to eliminate the middle men (A VOICE: There were no middle men).—it may be but I have been told so—and also I have been given certain figures that the actual producer of raw materials has had better price than what he would get if the middle man had been in existence. If these facts which have been placed are not true, I will request my friends to let me have facts, so that I may hold an enquiry and find out the cause of reflections which have been made on the Director. The allegations are so serious that I would like to have them placed in writing, so that I can really make an enquiry and find out how far these are correct. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Start an enquiry and you will find out. What about the stoppage of traffic?) I am asking you, let me have all the facts.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The facts must have been in the Government files for more or less 6 months. There have been many letters going round the Railway Department and myself and many other departments. If the Hon'ble Minister keeps himself in the dark I cannot help him.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I have made a promise that if facts are placed before me I shall make an enquiry, and I hope that will satisfy my friend.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The facts have been placed already by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce in a memorandum to the Government of India and the Government of Bengal and have been thrashed out by the Hon'ble Commerce Member of the Government of India who came here and before whom all these discussions took place and Secretary, Government of Bengal, must be knowing these facts. If the Hon'ble Minister does not keep himself informed I cannot help him.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am sorry what I have said has been misinterpreted by my friend. I said that if the charges levelled against the Director of Industries in regard to corruption and other things are placed before me, I shall hold an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not said "corruption" at all.

Mr. P. BANERJI: That is your imagination.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: My friend knows better than I do. As I have already said that these things took place six months before and unless certain matters are brought to the notice of the Minister, it is not his duty to go and see what has happened a year ago.

I am very glad that a good suggestion has been made in the speech that has been made by my friend Mr. Sukumar Datta. I fully agree with him when he says that for the real industrial expansion, all the different co-operative departments of the Government of Bengal, namely, Co-operative Department, Commerce and Industries Departments, etc., should sit together and a Committee should be formed. I will accept this suggestion and place it before Government. It is for the Government to decide what to do. I shall also place before Government the first class suggestion which has been made by my honourable friend sitting on the other side, Mr. Abdul Karim, that there should be a Statutory Board. I think the time has come when this proposal should be very carefully considered if a Statutory Board of Industries is to be constituted in which the experts of different industrial sections should be there to advise Government in regard to future expansion. (Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: What about helping village industries?)

The complaints about the failure of the Government to pursue a suitable industrial policy which would secure a progressive industrial development of the province do not seem to take into consideration all relevant factors involved and also the scope of work available to a provincial Department of Industries. In the existing scheme of things

a provincial Department of Industries is hedged with so many limitations that its activities cannot enlarge to the extent of embracing all the aspects of our industries and yield the desirable results.

Many vital factors like tariff, railway freight and currency exchange are entirely outside their control. Sandwitched between such external limitations and the internal drawback of very limited financial resources the Department of Industries is called to the difficult task of formulating and pursuing a long range plan that will at once answer the conflicting demands for circumspection and prudence on the one hand, and on the other, for a certain amount of imagination and boldness for which new experiments so essential to a progressive policy have to be undertaken from time to time without giving much thought to the possibility of showing any quick spectacular results.

Sir, it is well to bear in mind the limiting factors confronting this Department just to have a correct appraisal of the responsibilities and achievements of the Department, particularly in regard to its activities in the furtherance of the industrial development of the Province. Taking a short view of the situation it would be fundamentally wrong to try to evaluate the achievements of the Department from year to year entirely by the application of any objective statistical test, such as by a progressive increase in the number of factories or in the volume of industrial goods produced in the Province. The activities of this Department are not to be judged by the demonstration of immediate tangible results alone. The question in this case is not so much whether the Department is moving fast but whether it is moving forward along the right track. Applying this standard to the activities of the Department it will be found that the Department has taken many important and decisive steps of permanent utility in the direction of giving an effective impetus to the industrial development of this province.

If the industrial development of the province is thought of in terms of new factories built up, it needs to be realised that the Industries Department cannot, for obvious reasons, undertake any direct responsibility in this regard. The establishment of a factory involves a number of problems,—organisational, financial, technical and otherwise,—of which some are outside the scope of direct Government initiative and assistance. As the present organisation of the Department stands, its activities towards promoting industrial development have to be concentrated mainly on revealing potentialities of particular industries by statistical investigations, research and demonstration, and rendering such technical assistance as it is in a position to provide. The resources available to the Department for tackling the allied problems of marketing and finance have hitherto been extremely meagre, nor was it ever the ideal of this Department to undertake

promotion of industrial concerns on its own initiative. One cannot, therefore, expect that the effects of the development activities of this *Department should be registered in a commensurate and immediate increase in the number of factories except as a long term effect*; for despite the help and guidance which the Department offers very much would depend on the response of private enterprise which is too shy, as a rule, to assume the boldness or enthusiasm to go in for new ventures. It would, therefore, be wrong to judge, as some are wont to do, the achievements or usefulness of the Department by the number of factories brought into existence by its own initiative or by similar such standards—the proper criterion should be what inspiration it could give and what assistance in the shape of technical and statistical advice, it could render to private individuals who were engaged in various industrial enterprises.

It should also be recognised that in a predominantly agricultural country like India where industrial backwardness is many-sided and the existing industries have in many cases languished to the point of extinction through long neglect, it is very difficult to make an abiding or quick impression on the problems that have to be tackled. Most of the cottage industries today betray the signs of stagnation by causes both internal and external. Lack of organisation and finance, inefficiency of management and inability to improve the technique of production to suit the changing needs of the public are the principal internal causes which, assisted by the serious foreign competition, have ruined the cottage industries on which millions of people were dependent for their living and out of which millions still eke out a precarious livelihood. These industries have to be rejuvenated, their methods of production rationalised on a new and scientific basis and new industries in new directions have to be created to provide subsidiary occupations to those industrial artisans whose hereditary occupations have been destroyed beyond recovery and to those agricultural population who cannot obtain a living out of the land. Then, the new industries, small-scale, medium-sized or large, which exist now or which are being established are often found to founder on the rocks of inadequate finance, lack of organisation, inefficient management and want of technical knowledge. There are numerous other problems which confront them and which await speedy solution from the public, and the Government. But with its limited resources the department can hardly preoccupy itself with all these problems or tackle them successfully.

Now, Sir, I have already said that I have listened very carefully to the speeches made by honourable members. I can assure them that as far as it lies in my power I shall try to meet and accept the suggestions which have been made. As members are aware, the time and situation are not ripe for any large expansion of industries. However one may

desire, there are limitations because the machinery is not available and there are also other factors which prevent such an expansion. But I will say this that in the next budget, if I am on this side of the House, I shall do my best to show that as far as possible unnecessary expenditure in the Department of Industries is curtailed and that with the saving from that and with the help of the Hon'ble Finance Minister who will be more reasonable and more generous and with the guidance, help and assistance of technical experts inside this House and outside I shall be able to bring in more useful schemes for the betterment of the province

With these words I would request my honourable friends who have moved their motions to realise that I have not had sufficient time to go into these matters In view of the assurance that I have given that I shall look into these matters, as early as possible, I hope my honourable friends will withdraw their motions.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Fazlul Qadir that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali that the demand of Rs 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abdul Karim that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

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The motion of Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 17,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The main motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, that a sum of Rs. 17,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 12,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona".

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100.

In that connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge to the serious position in which we find ourselves today. Java having gone out of Allied control, the supply of quinine that used to come to India from there in large quantities has been stopped totally. The Government of Bengal, therefore, must make the utmost possible effort to make up the shortage so caused by utilising every available means to increase the plantation of cinchona.

The other point which deserves the attention of the Minister is the arrangement for the sale of quinine in this country and outside. The Hon'ble Minister for Industries has stated, only a few minutes ago, that the Government had successfully eliminated the middleman. I do not want to go into the details of the arrangement for the sale of quinine which is——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is scandalous.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Yes, it is scandalous and I will urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to revise the whole thing. If there is any legal handicap in his way, and if he comes up with an

amending or a permissive piece of legislation, I am absolutely certain that every section of the House will support him in his attempt to put it right because the more we save on commissions the more we shall be able to devote to the cultivation of cinchona and to the distribution of quinine in every village in seasons of malaria. As I have said, Sir, he should call his experts to advise him as to how best Government can increase the cultivation of cinchona and how best it can save money on commissions and devote it to the distribution of quinine. I can assure him, Sir, that with a slight investigation he will be able to save several lakhs of rupees to the exchequer.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion on the general policy and the failure of Government in the matter of development of Cinchona plantation.

It has been truly said by my friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, that after Java which is a great quinine-producing centre having gone to the occupation of the Japanese, the question of developing Cinchona cultivation is one of utmost importance. The Hague Committee of the League of Nations made an enquiry into the quinine requirements of the malaria-stricken countries and the Committee submitted its report in the year 1932. In the introduction chapter of the report it will be seen that the Government of India supplied certain statistics to the League of Nations, now defunct, and we find therein that out of the total population of 35 crores in India, as it then was, ten crores of people suffered from malaria, and out of those ten crores only 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 people were given medical treatment of some sort or other. That shows that only ten per cent. of the malaria patients had medical treatment. And the quantity of quinine that was distributed did not exceed two grams per annum per case treated. But it is stated in that report that the standard dose of quinine is 20 grams per case per annum. Therefore, now when supply from Java has been totally stopped we must develop our Cinchona cultivation with a view to meeting as much as we can of our most pressing needs. So long, no development was possible in the interests of Imperialist exploiters.

Sir, there are two plantations for Cinchona cultivation in Bengal, one of which is at Mungpoo and the other at Mungsu. When I look into the reports prepared by Government I find that in the year 1937-38, the area under cultivation at Mungpoo was 1,659 acres and that at the other place, 1,101 acres: in 1938-39, that at Mungpoo was 1,812, and at the other place 1,245 acres: in 1939-40 that at Mungpoo rose to 1,824 and at Mungsu it was 1,219 acres. So, there is some development. But there is no denying the fact that Bengal needs

further development, and this question is one of the most vital in Bengal. In the year 1929 out of the total population of 46,695,538 in Bengal the cases that were treated were 2,186,217 while the number of persons who suffered from malaria was a crore, if not a crore and a half. If you look into that report of the League of Nations you will find, Sir, that there was a prevalence of malaria in Italy but malaria has been totally eradicated from that country by the use of quinine. That should also have been done in Bengal when the soil of Bengal is able to grow cinchona. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will bestow his most earnest consideration to this question so that this question which is of vital importance to Bengal may be properly tackled. In this connection, Sir, I would also draw the attention of Government to the urgent necessity of adopting a policy of co-ordination in the various activities of the nation-building departments. That is also necessary in the matter of distribution of quinine and also in the matter of its manufacture.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100. The object of my motion is to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant and carelessness in producing the best quality.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Budget for 1941-42 the estimate was for Rs. 7,64,000 and in the revised estimate it was for Rs. 8,29,000, that is, Rs. 65,000 was estimated more in the revised estimate than that in the Budget estimate for the same year. While in the Budget for the year 1942-43, the estimate has been made for 12,90,000, that is, an increase of Rs. 4,61,000 over that of the revised estimate of the previous year, and, therefore, outwardly it appears that this amount on the whole is not an unsatisfactory one, it is really not so. By scrutinizing the Budget it becomes clear from the Red Book of the Budget, page 105, that the increase of Rs. 65,000 more of the revised estimate than that of the Budget of 1941-42 was due mainly to the acquisition of a reserve stock of chemicals and other essential requisites for the cinchona factory against the apprehension that supply may fall short due to war. And the present Budget provides for Rs. 3,75,000 for purchasing 15,000 lbs. of quinine to maintain the supplies at their present level. Then the rest, namely, some Rs. 85,000 is accounted for by the cost of the reorganisation scheme of the cinchona factory. This amount of some Rs. 80,000 or Rs. 85,000, in comparison to the huge death-roll per year when millions of men suffer from malaria in Bengal, pales into insignificance for a scheme of

reorganisation of the cinchona factory particularly when Java is out of our reach. So, Sir, the grant that has been made for this purpose is quite inadequate and insufficient.

The next point, Sir, that I shall harp on is the carelessness of the Government in producing the best quality of quinine. The Government is not paying proper attention to this direction for a long time. I cannot cite here, as I am not an expert, up to what percentage the quinine prepared in our factories possesses the essence of the best type. But judging from its effects upon the patients we are gradually losing our faith. I am sure almost all the honourable members of this House have personally experienced it as I myself have. Coming from a rural area in the district of Mymensingh where malaria has done its ravages on a gigantic scale I have had a bitter experience and there malaria patients have been suffering at times without number throughout the year in spite of proper and regular application of quinine. This may be due to various other reasons, but nobody can deny that it is mainly due to the unsatisfactory quality of its essence in those available in the market from such factory.

So, Sir, the carelessness and indifference of the Government for the production of the best quality of quinine, in my opinion, amounts to a crime. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government to take keener interest in the cultivation and production of the best quality of quinine

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great interest to the criticisms made against the department by my honourable friends on the Opposition and I can express my gratitude to them for having done it with the best of spirit and specially to Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta to whose criticism I always give much credit because he never criticises anything with any partisan spirit. I can assure him that I shall look into the figures that he has given in the course of the discussion today.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta mentioned the point that the quinine that is supplied to the people of Bengal or to the Indians is quite inadequate. I can say this much that my department is primarily concerned with the production of quinine and the extension of cultivation. The Public Health Department require us to supply them with a certain quantity and my department has done that to the fullest extent whenever required. This year we understand that their demand has been rather extended to Rs. 6 lakhs and my department will certainly supply that. If the Public Health Department require more quinine for supply to district boards, certainly my department will supply as much as its capacity goes.

As regards the main question of the extension of cultivation, I may make a few observations for the information of the House. When the Provincial Autonomy was introduced in Bengal, at the very earliest opportunity the ex-Finance Minister Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker took up the matter in right earnest and made certain investigations and submitted a report. A reorganisation scheme was submitted to Government and that was accepted. That scheme has been working from the year 1939 and the extension of cultivation of cinchona has progressed much. I understand that with the fall of Java the problem has become very acute, but, Sir, these things were unforeseen. The department has tried its utmost and it has done what it could by this time. The extension of the cultivation of cinchona cannot be done at a moment because there are various difficulties.

First of all, there is the question of the examination of the soil. It cannot be grown in a haphazard manner because it has been proved in the past that cultivation in a haphazard manner fails absolutely in the long run. I can only tell the House that if cinchona cultivation had been such an easy thing, then all the countries of the world that are self-governed and free would have taken up the cultivation of cinchona in order to make themselves self-sufficient. But we know, Sir, that before Java fell, she used to dominate the world market because cinchona cultivation requires certain conditions of things—a definite nature of soil and a definite quantity of rainfall, not more and not less than is necessary. So, we shall have to proceed very cautiously, but my department will bear in mind and it is also alive to the fact that cinchona cultivation is a matter which must be given the most earnest consideration and it is already trying its utmost to do what it can. From the 1st April, 1942, another new area—Latpanchar area—is going to be cultivated. So, I can say that my department will try its utmost to do whatever can be done under the existing circumstances.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I put one question in this connection? Has the quarrel between the Forest Department and the Industries Department been settled to the satisfaction of both or either so that the development of cinchona plantation may be pursued without further delay?

The Hon'ble Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: I can tell my friend that so far I do not know of any quarrel. If there be any such quarrel, certainly cinchona plantation requirements will have precedence over the Forest Department and as both these departments are under my charge, I can give my friend this assurance that the Forest Department considerations will not stand in the way.

As regards sale, I can inform the House that at present we are under certain existing contract and so far as I remember it will expire in the month of November, 1942. Meanwhile we have started our own sale depôt. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can you?) Because we have got something in excess. We have already started an establishment of our own and the quinine that is produced will be placed under our department and Government will have control over the whole product in near future. I can tell the House that my department will try its utmost and if my honourable friends make any helpful suggestion, it will certainly be considered and, if possible, given effect to.

The motion of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz that the demand of Rs. 12,40,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Upendranath Barman that a sum of Rs. 12,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" was then put and agreed to.

The House was adjourned at 11 a.m. till 3-30 p.m.

Afternoon Session.

(After Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair there were cries of "no quorum, Sir". A count was taken and it was found that there was no quorum. Mr. Deputy Speaker asked Secretary to have the bell rung again and still there was no quorum.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the bell has to be rung for five minutes.

Secretary pointed out that under the rules it was necessary to ring the bell for 20 strokes, which was done.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us adjourn for 15 minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Under what rule?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No rule. That is absolutely in the discretion of the Chair.

Adjournment.

As there was no quorum the House was then adjourned at 3-35 p.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Friday, the 27th March, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 27th March, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 191 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answers were given)

Appointment of Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Prisons.

*203. **Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state when the post of Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, will be filled up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of filling up the post by a qualified candidate either from the (1) Muslim or (2) Scheduled Caste community?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): The matter has been referred to the Public Service Commisison.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to tell the House whether Government have made any recommendations to the Public Service Commission that a suitable Muslim or Scheduled Caste candidate should be selected for the post?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: No, Sir. As far as I am aware, Government have not made any recommendation to the Public Service Commission because it is not for Government to make any recommendation but it is for the Public Service Commission to make it. Besides under the Recruitment Rules the post is required to be filled up by promotion from among the Assistants of the Secretariat and of the office of the Inspector-General of Prisons.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Under what rule is it obligatory that the post should be filled up by promotion and not by direct recruitment?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Under the Recruitment Rules which every department and every office has got.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: When was the matter referred to the Public Service Commission?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: About a month ago.

General elections of Union Boards in Chandpur, Tippera.

***204. Mr. JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the last general elections of union boards in the subdivision of Chandpur, Tippera, were held; and

(*ii*) when the next general elections of union boards in this subdivision are due?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of holding the general election of union boards in due time? If so, when?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*)(*i*) In December, 1937, and January, 1938, respectively.

(*ii*) In October, 1942.

(*b*) Yes, in October, 1942.

Mr. SYED ADBUL MAJID: In view of the fact that the term of union boards is ordinarily 4 years and in view of the fact that the general election of union board in the subdivision of Chandpur was held in December, 1937, and that of Tippera subdivision in January respectively, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the date of the general election of the union boards in Chandpur subdivision should be held in October, 1942, and also that of Tippera in October, 1942?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not in a position to give any specific reason but what I presume I may tell him and it is this that sometimes the constitution of union boards takes time and before the new board comes into operation some time elapses. That is taken into account in fixing the date.

Posts held by retired Government servants in the Court of Wards estates.

*205. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(a) what are the posts in the Revenue Department under the Court of Wards estates that are held by retired Government servants;

(b) who are the present incumbents for each of these; and

(c) what are the special reasons, if any, for the appointment of retired Government servants to these posts?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE and JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (a) and (b) The following retired Government servants hold at present the posts noted against each:—

(1) Rai G. C. Sen Bahadur, retired Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—Manager, Cossimbazar Raj Wards Estate.

(2) Babu Rebatiraman Dutta, B.C.S. (retd.),—Deputy Manager, Cossimbazar Raj Wards Estate.

(3) Mr. Srimanta Kumar Das Gupta, M.B.E., retired Deputy Magistrate and Collector,—Manager, Tagore Raj Wards Estate.

(4) Babu Suresh Chandra Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, retired Assistant Settlement Officer,—Assistant Manager, Tagore Raj Wards Estate.

(5) Rai Prafulla Kumar Ghosh Bahadur (retired Stenographer, Bihar Secretariat),—officiating Manager, Bhowal Wards Estate.

(c) Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above were considered to be the best to hold the posts in view of their past administrative experience, abilities and status and also having regard to the important duties and responsibilities attached to respective posts.

No. 4 was appointed in 1937, and is continuing in the same capacity after assumption of charge of the estate by the Court of Wards in 1939.

No. 5 was at first on deputation to the Court of Wards Service and retired from Government service while in Court of Wards employment.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the ordinary procedure for the appointment of managers under the Court of Wards?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The procedure is followed by the Board of Revenue and the Board of Revenue has to make the appointments except in the case of some major appointments where the approval of the Local Government is asked for.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to answer (*b*)(*3*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the pay of Mr. Srimanta Kumar Das Gupta at the time of retirement from Government service, the amount of pension which he now draws as such and the pay which he gets as Manager?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have given information to questions specifically asked for but if the honourable member desires more information I can get it for him.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the posts of Manager under the Court of Wards are ordinarily filled up by promotion from the posts of Assistant Managers?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The honourable member is perhaps right, but so far as these particular appointments are concerned the answer is contained in (*c*).

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any other suitable candidates available from outside the group of retired Government officials for these appointments under the Court of Wards?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I do not know whether the honourable member refers to candidates from outside for direct appointment or candidates from those who are already in Government service.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any medical examination of the candidates before the appointments were made to find out whether those gentlemen were invalids?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I do not think so. But that custom is a bad custom.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by such appointment of retired officers chances of those already in the Court of Wards service, viz., Circle Officers and Inspectors who have also equal administrative experience and ability, to get those appointments by promotion are stopped?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Normally, I should have thought so, but the honourable member is aware that the Government is passing through rather abnormal times. The question of the honourable member will be borne in mind by me.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: In view of the meritorious services rendered by those gentlemen will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in case these posts are filled by other men those gentlemen can wait for such appointments till their rebirth? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: After their death there will be no longer any claim to an extension of service. (Laughter.)

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With regard to No. 5 who was before his deputation a stenographer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he was still a stenographer at the time when he was on deputation to the Court of Wards?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I do not think so and I have not got any further information. But if the honourable member desires to have further information I shall be prepared to supply that information later on.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of making all the appointments to the Court of Wards on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I shall bear in mind the very important question of policy raised by my honourable friend but it is doubtful whether the long arms of the Public Service Commission will be able to reach the Court of Wards.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: In view of the pledges given by the Government in the past will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see that in future no Government retired officers are re-employed?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am not aware of any such pledge, and I do not know whether the honourable member is referring to any election pledge or Government pledge.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of stopping the present procedure of re-employing retired officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I shall certainly bear that in mind.

Amount sanctioned for relief works in 1938-39 and 1940-41 in Faridpur.

*206. **Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the year 1938-39 and 1940-41—

(a) the amount sanctioned under the following heads in the district of Faridpur—

(1) Agricultural loans,

(2) Test Relief work, and

(3) Gratuitous relief;

(b) the amount that was allotted for subdivision of Goalundo and other subdivisions of the district under the above heads; and

(c) the amount that was actually spent in each subdivision under the heads?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 206.

	1938-39.	1940-41.
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) (1) Agricultural loan	6,60,000	55,000
(2) Test relief	31,000	10,000
(3) Gratuitous relief	30,000	600

	Goalundo subdivision.	Sadar subdivision.	Gopalganj subdivision.	Madaripur subdivision.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b) (1) Agricultural loan—					
1938-39 ..	2,50,000	1,28,000	1,70,000	1,12,000	6,60,000
1940-41 ..	20,000	35,000	.	..	55,000
(2) Test relief—					
1938-39 ..	7,500	8,200	8,100	7,200	31,000
1940-41 ..	3,500	4,500	..	2,000	10,000
(3) Gratuitous relief—					
1938-39 ..	9,000	5,250	12,750	3,000	30,000
1940-41 .	..	..	500	100	600
(c) (1) Agricultural loan—					
1938-39 ..	2,50,000	1,28,000	1,70,000	1,12,000	6,60,000
1940-41 ..	20,000	35,000	..	..	55,000
(2) Test relief—					
1938-39 ..	7,500	8,200	8,100	7,200	31,000
1940-41 ..	577	2,923	..	2,000	5,500
(3) Gratuitous relief—					
1938-39 ..	9,000	5,250	12,750	3,000	30,000
1940-41 ..	..	..	..	100	100

Char Nilakshmi in Chittagong.

***207. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether Char Nilakshmi with an area of 7½ square miles of police-station Mirsarai in the district of Chittagong is a Khasmahal *char*?

(*b*) Is it a fact that it has been settled with an estate under the management of Court of Wards without *salami*?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rent at which it has been settled?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the cultivators of the area prayed for settlement of the area on *salami* and higher rent?

(*e*) If so, do the Government contemplate resettlement of the area of the *char* fit for cultivation with the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The *char* which formed as an accretion to the *ijara* tenures of the R. K. Banerjee Wards Estate was settled with the said estate without *salami* for a term of 5 years with a right of renewal on such rent as may be determined by the Collector.

(*c*) Rs.270.

(*e*) No. Government cannot, under the existing law, make any direct settlement of the *char* with the cultivators

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us with reference to answer (*c*) what he means by the term "under the existing law"?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The Law of Alluvion and Diluvion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the *char* was thrown from a navigable river?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: The position is this. In 1880 a *char* appeared near the Sandip Channel. Various landlords including the Taraf Joy Narayan Ghoshal laid claim to the *char* as reformation *in situ*. In 1882 Mr. Fasson, the then Settlement Officer, found it impossible to identify the land *dag* by *dag* with reference to 1200 Maghi survey papers. With the approval of the Board of Revenue he entered into a compromise with the claimants by assigning to each in a compact block the reformed land in the same

proportion as claimants' whole land within the village according to 1200 Maghi papers bore to the whole area of the village according to the same papers. The lands which were found to be Government Noabad, the lands not taken by some of the claimants according to the compromise and the accretions to all the reformed lands except that of Sipi Doulat Taraf were farmed out to Taraf Joy Narayan Ghosal by creating two *ejaras* Nos. 2674 and 2675. These *ejaras* have been recorded as temporary tenures in the settlement record of right. When further accretions occurred there was a dispute between the Khas Mahal and the Court of Wards the former refusing settlement with the Court of Wards and the latter insisting on settlement on the ground that the estate being under the management of the Court of Wards it had always abided by the decision of the local officers or of Government instead of filing civil suits which was the course followed by some other proprietors with success. The matter was then referred to the late Major Kindersley and the then Member of the Board of Revenue. Under orders of the Member, Board of Revenue, the accretions were settled with the Court of Wards as Sadharan Taluk for five years. Unlike other districts of Bengal, Chittagong had the advantage of survey papers before the Permanent Settlement of 1793. Therefore, the lands outside the survey papers were regarded as Government property and Government were at liberty to settle these lands, even accretions, as proprietor. In this district the Law of Alluvion and Diluvion does not apply generally and the matter, therefore, was generally gone into on the basis of accretions.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Ballot voting in all local bodies.

87. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating the introduction of a Bill in the Assembly in near future providing for secret ballot voting in all local self-governing bodies including the Union Boards, District Boards, and Municipalities, etc.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate date for the introduction of the said Bill?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) to (*c*) The ballot system of voting is already in vogue in the Calcutta Corporation under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, and in the mufassal municipalities under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932. Such system of voting has also been provided for direct election to District Boards in areas from which Local Boards have been abolished and for indirect election to District Boards by Local Boards.

Under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act and the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, the method of voting is provided for by Rules, but the question of making specific provisions for the introduction of ballot voting in the Local and Union Boards under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act and Bengal Village Self-Government Act respectively is engaging the serious attention of Government in connection with the comprehensive amendment of these two Acts, and a decision is likely to be reached shortly.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Since the matter is engaging the serious attention of Government will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of bringing in the amending Bills in the next session?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So far as comprehensive amendments to the Bengal Local Self-Government and the Bengal Village Self-Government Acts are concerned, I think the amendments are now ready and the earliest opportunity will be taken by Government to bring them before this Legislature.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the introduction of the system of symbols is under the consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is one of the considerations that the Government will bear in mind.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: In view of the fact that the amendment of an Act generally takes a long time and also in view of the fact that the method of voting under the Bengal Local Self-Government and the Bengal Village Self-Government Acts are provided in the rules, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of amending the rules also so as to introduce the system of ballot voting as soon as possible?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Government would be reluctant to resort to the system of framing of rules as much as possible: they would much rather prefer important matters to be discussed, debated and decided upon by the Legislature.

Audit of the Singur Model Health Unit Accounts.

88. Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the accounts of the Singur Model Health Unit were audited;

(*b*) whether the audited accounts showed an embezzlement;

(*c*) if so, the amount of the money embezzled;

(*d*) the name of the Medical Officer of the Health Unit, when the money was embezzled;

(*e*) whether he is still continuing as Medical Officer;

(*f*) if not, whether he has been permitted to join any other service;

(*g*) if so, the name of the post;

(*h*) whether any enquiry has been made as to who has been responsible for the embezzlement;

(*i*) if not, the reasons for not enquiring into the matter;

(*j*) whether any person has been appointed as Medical Officer of the Health Unit;

(*k*) if so, the name of the person so appointed; and

(*l*) does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate taking steps for proceeding against the persons responsible for the embezzlement?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: (*a*) No; on receipt of an anonymous complaint the Assistant Director of Public Health, Burdwan Circle, was instructed by the Director of Public Health to furnish a report after local investigation.

(*b*) It is not yet known whether any embezzlement has taken place. But certain irregularities in the stock account were detected.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Dr. J. K. Bhattacharji.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) His services were placed at the disposal of the Port Health Department of the Government of India.

(*g*) Assistant Port Health Officer, Calcutta. The officer is now on leave.

(*h*) The clerks responsible for the irregularities mentioned have been punished. One of the clerks is a District Board employee. The District Board of Hooghly has been requested to replace him by another

and to inflict such punishment as the nature of the case deserves. The other clerk of the Singur establishment has since been dismissed as he failed to submit his explanation within the time given.

(*i*) Further enquiry is pending.

(*j*) and (*k*) Dr. M. Ahmed, an Epidemiologist of the Public Health Department, was appointed to officiate till 8th March, 1942. On emergent duties Dr. M. Ahmed has been sent to Chittagong and Dr. K. Hossain Khan, a temporary Epidemiologist, is officiating now at Singur.

(*l*) I am awaiting the result of the enquiry.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the accounts were audited?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The answer says, the accounts were not audited.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, the question (*b*) says whether the audited accounts showed an embezzlement.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The first question is whether the accounts of the Singur Model Health Unit were audited to which the answer is "no."

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the "certain irregularities" which were found?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So far as I can find out from the papers now before me irregularities referred to certain monies not having reached the Health Unit in time and certain disbursements not having been made in accordance with the rules.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In view of the serious nature of the allegations, does the Hon'ble Minister think that accounts should be audited?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: As I have indicated in my reply, according to the rules a report has got to be called for from the department and that report I am awaiting.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the report of the Assistant Director of Public Health, who was deputed to enquire into the allegations made in the anonymous complaint, has been submitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am expecting that report in the first week of April.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was he sent to enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am not in a position to say that.

A.R.P. measures for protection of inmates of Hijli Special Jail.

89. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the Kharagpur area including the Hijli Special Jail has been declared or is being considered by the Government as a dangerous area from the standpoint of air raid possibilities?

(*b*) If so, what A.R.P. measures the Government have taken or do they propose to take in the Hijli Special Jail?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the A.R.P. authorities have issued instruction to the people to go downstairs in their premises when an air raid warning is given?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the security prisoners of Hijli Special Jail residing upstairs are not allowed to go downstairs at night; and

(*ii*) that the gates for going out of the barrack or building remain locked up at night?

(*e*) If the answers to (*c*) and (*d*) are in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing instructions to the Jail authorities to allow the security prisoners to have the liberty of going downstairs at night?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Special A. R. P. measures are being enforced in certain areas in Kharagpur.

(*b*) to (*e*) The Hijli Special Jail is now closed and the questions do not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) to (*e*) wherein it is stated that "the Hijli Special Jail is now closed and the questions do not arise", will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to tell the House whether A. R. P. measures have been adopted in other jails and other dangerous areas?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: This question does not perhaps arise.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is with regard to the Hijli Jail. It is not possible to give answers with regard to other jails.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: There is no point in transferring prisoners from one dangerous place to another if that place where the prisoners are sent is not safe.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, the answer is that the Hijli Special Jail is now closed, and surely the prisoners have been transferred elsewhere. My question is whether A. R. P. measures have been adopted in those places.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: It is not necessary to adopt A. R. P. measures in those areas where the prisoners have presumably been transferred, because those areas have not been declared emergency areas. The prisoners have been transferred from the Hijli Special Jail because it was thought necessary to transfer them to a place which is safer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if the idea of reopening the Hijli Jail has been abandoned by Government?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: This question cannot be answered at the present moment.

Unemployment among Maulvis.

90. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the annual number of students who have passed out as—

(*i*) Alim,

(*ii*) Fazil, and

(*iii*) Title Examinations

in Bengal during the last five years?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the number of unemployed Maulvis who have passed the Bengal Madrassa Board Examinations of—

(*i*) Alim,

(*ii*) Fazil, and

(*iii*) Title

and also those who have passed the final examination of old scheme Dars-i-Nizamia from various Islamia Madrassas in and outside Bengal is on the increase year after year?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION and COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) I am not aware of this.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Statement (showing the numbers of students passing the Alim, Fazil and Title Examinations during 1937-1941) referred to in reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 90.

			1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Alim	..	..	326	307	406	533	518
Fazil	..	..	233	207	279	211	416
Title	..	..	31	36	36	26	37

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister take note of the fact that the number mentioned in (*b*), that is, the number of Alim, Fazil and Title is gradually increasing——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question. It is no use asking the Hon'ble Minister to take note of anything.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that according to Islamic convention and injunction the principal duty of Arabic scholars is to take the sacred profession of trade and commerce and to propagate Islam in course of their business?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Does the Government consider the desirability of finding some means for the solution of the unemployment problem among the Maulvis and Maulanas?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Government has in view that object.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*b*), whether he thinks it desirable to make an enquiry on this point?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: At present there is no need; but if need be, enquiry will be made.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is acute distress due to unemployment of this class of people and whether Government think it desirable to make an enquiry into this matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As I have already answered, Government does not think that there is immediate necessity to make an enquiry, but I feel that the discontent is growing day by day.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, question (c) has not been properly answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I cannot help.

Statement by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask your indulgence for two minutes to make a statement in connection with the statement made by the Leader of the House in which my name was mentioned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly give me in writing the statement you want to make and I will consider it. If it is necessary in the interests of the privilege of members of the House, certainly I will allow you to make that statement either on the 1st or the 2nd of April, as the case may be.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Thank you, Sir, I would prefer 2nd.

Message from His Excellency the Governor under section 75, Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a message from His Excellency the Governor under section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935. It is as follows:—

The Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941, has been passed by both Chambers of the Bengal Legislature and has been presented to the Governor in accordance with section 75, Government of India Act, 1935. Having given my most careful attention to the Bill, I am of opinion that it is my duty to return it to the Legislature in accordance with the proviso to the said section and to request the Chambers to consider it in regard to the following points.

2. Sufficient attention does not appear to have been paid to the effect of the proposed new sections 37A and 37B upon the provisions of the existing section 27 of Act XI of 1859. The latter section provides that where the purchase money has been fully paid, a sale against which no appeal has been preferred shall become final on the 60th day after the date on which it took place; and under section 28 a certificate of sale is thereafter to be issued immediately, and possession is to be delivered under section 29. An application under the new section 37A may be rejected, and an appeal can be preferred against an order of rejection within 30 days of the date of the order. That date may be considerably more than 60 days from the date of the sale, and such an appeal is not an appeal against the sale itself. In order, therefore, to obviate the necessity for cancelling a certificate of sale already granted under section 28, and for the surrender of possession by a purchaser who has received possession, it is necessary to insert in the Bill itself an amendment of section 27 to provide that a sale shall not become final until any application under section 37A or any appeal under section 37B has been dismissed.

3. Secondly the Bill does not clearly specify whether the provisions of the proposed new sections 37A and 37B override those of section 6. Administrative difficulty is likely to arise unless this lacuna is filled, and as the intention of the Bill appears to be that the provisions of section 6 should in fact be read as being subject to those of sections 37A and 37B, it is necessary to make this intention clear by an amendment.

4. After due consideration, therefore, I have decided to recommend to the Bengal Legislative Chambers that the Bill be amended in the manner stated in the following recommendation, and I appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, Minister in charge of the Revenue Department, to be the member in charge of the Bill.

5. In pursuance of the provisions of the proviso to section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, John Arthur Herbert, Governor of Bengal, do recommend to the Bengal Legislative Chambers that they do amend the Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941, by the adoption, without further amendments, of the following amendments, that is to say,—

(1) After clause 1 of the Bill the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"1A. In section 27 of the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act):—

(*a*) after the words 'no appeal shall have been preferred' the words, figures, letters and brackets 'or in respect of which no application under section 37A has been made or in respect of which no appeal under sub-section (*3*) of section 37B has been preferred' shall be inserted;

(*b*) after the words 'dismissed by the Commissioner" the words, figures, letters and brackets 'or in respect of which an application under section 37A may have been made or an appeal under sub-section (*3*) of section 37B may have been preferred and such application or appeal has been dismissed' shall be inserted."

(2) In clause 2 of the Bill—

(*a*) for the words and figures "Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859" the words "said Act" shall be substituted.

(*b*) In sub-section (*1*) of section 37B proposed to be inserted after section 37 of the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859, before the words, figures and letter 'Where the deposit required by section 37A' the words 'notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act' shall be inserted.

J. A. HERBERT,
Governor of Bengal.

Government House.
The 26th February, 1942.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1942.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I move that the Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1942, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sir, we are extending the life of the Bill by one year only and this has been done for the purpose of putting a little pressure upon the otherwise busy Government, so that a comprehensive legislative measure which is already in draft might be introduced as early as possible. This Bill is in the nature of maintaining *status quo* only for a period of one year.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an assurance whether after the expiry of one year further extension will not be asked for?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I do not know whether I shall be guilty of repetition, and even then I shall repeat whether in view of the decision of the Hon'ble High Court that "suit" does not include "appeal" Government propose to do anything immediately. I want to know this from the Hon'ble Minister through you, Sir.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Our issue is altogether different. The issue is this. The Hon'ble Minister has said that as the busy Government could not do anything in one year, Government are extending the life of this Act for another year. With due respect to the Hon'ble Minister I would say that because the Government is lazy, this thing has not been enacted during the last two years. We want to have an assurance whether the actual law will be brought forward in this Assembly by this Government in the course of one year or not. That is the assurance which we want from the Government, so that we may not hear again that because this year Government could not do anything, the period will be extended for another year.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Sir, I want to say a few words——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you supporting or opposing the consideration of the Bill?

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: I would like to say that the Hon'ble Minister should make haste. Already four years have passed——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister tell us what procedure he wishes to follow in the House to-day? We have not had any chance of studying the recommendations of His Excellency. Does he want that these recommendations should be discussed to-day?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is another thing. That will come later. We have now taken up the Non-agricultural Tenancy Bill.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1942, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1942, as settled in the Assembly——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That will not do. Mr. Deputy Speaker will have to put this Bill clause by clause and the speech of the Hon'ble Minister will come afterwards.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Very well.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: With Dr. Sanyal's permission may I make a speech now?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? Is it permissible under the rules of procedure here for a Minister of Government to seek permission of an ordinary member?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Siddiqi seems to be rather out of sort. He was not so much unappreciative of humour in the past.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Non-agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1942, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Touts Bill, 1940.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the amendment made by the Council in the Bengal Touts Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration.

Sir, there is only one clause, namely, that the expression "1941" be substituted for "1940".

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the amendment made by the Council in the Bengal Touts Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

The question that the amendment made by the Council in the Bengal Touts Bill, 1940, be agreed to was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1942.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1942.

Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I beg to move that the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1942, be taken into consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I beg to move that in clause 1(2) in lines 1 and 2, for the words "on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint" the words "from the 9th of April, 1941" be substituted.

My object in moving this amendment is this. It appears that the assent of His Excellency the Governor to the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935, was obtained on the 9th April, 1936, and accordingly the term of the Act expires on the 8th April, 1941. Therefore, in order that the proposed amendment may take effect from a specific date, viz., 9th April, 1941, I have moved this amendment. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons you will find that in many of the areas the period of 5 years has practically expired but it has not been found possible to conciliate all the debts there. The Debt Settlement Boards were not established or could not be established soon after the assent to the Agricultural Debtors Act was obtained. It took a long time for the Government before it took steps for the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards in various districts in the Province. Therefore, it was not possible for the Debt Settlement Boards that were established on a later date to conciliate all the debts there. In order that in future such difficulties may not arise I have suggested a specific date, viz., 9th April, 1941. I do not think that it should be left to the option of Government to give effect to the amendment by official notification in the Gazette whenever it chooses.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you move your amendment No. 2 to clause 1?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 1(2), in lines 1 and 2, for the words "on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint" the words "in such areas on such dates as the terms of the existing Debt Settlement Boards expired or expire" be substituted.

As I have already explained in connection with my amendment No. 1, the Debt Settlement Boards could not be established immediately after the original Act came into force. I know that Debt Settlement Boards were established in some districts including Noakhali much later in 1937-38. Therefore, it was obvious that it was not possible for those Boards to conciliate all the debts that were brought before them for settlement because they did not get the full 5 years' time.

They got only one and a half years, or two years for the settlement of debts. Sir, if my amendment is accepted, I submit, it will give a reasonable opportunity to those Boards which were established on a later date to conciliate debts, to function for two years more, i.e., I want to extend the life of those Boards from 5 to 7 years.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: My friend Mr. Syed Abdul Majid wants that the life of the Boards should be extended. In the Act itself it has been provided that applications can be received by the Boards for a period of 5 years from the date of their establishment. If the Boards are constituted some time after, petitions can be received for a longer period. So the Act authorises Boards to receive applications for 7 years. In these circumstances the amendments are unnecessary.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I beg to oppose the amendments moved by my friend, Mr. Syed Abdul Majid. I think he is under a wrong impression. 9th April, 1936, was the date of publication of the Bengal Act No. VII, but it was stated that the term of 5 years would begin to run from the date on which in any particular area any board would be established. Some boards were established from 9th April, 1936, some 6 months after and some still later. If the period of 5 years were to be counted from the date of the establishment of the boards the term of some might expire on 31st December, 1941, some on 30th April, 1942, and some others on 30th of May, 1942. If we confine ourselves to the specific date of 9th April, 1936, this will reduce the term of 5 years and the benefit that we want that the debtors should get. The amendment clearly says that the term of 5 years should be extended by 2 years more from the date on which the board was constituted.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Sir, I beg to withdraw the first amendment.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, the second amendment also is for the same purpose, namely, that the seven years will run from the date of establishment of the first Board; so, practically every Board will serve for seven years. The two years' extension will be given from the date of establishment of the first Board in the local area in which the applicant resides. If the life of the Board expires the Board cannot receive any new application unless and until its life is extended. It is now being extended to seven years in the case of each and every Board——

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: What about the Boards which have already been closed down?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I have issued a circular that during the pendency of the cases in the Boards they will not cease altogether but they will not function any more until the Bill, as passed, is published in the *Calcutta Gazette* after having received the assent of His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: But they will not have any right to entertain fresh applications and the creditors will be at liberty to sue the debtors in the civil courts.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I feel there is that difficulty. I admit that this Bill ought to have been placed before the Legislature long ago and I am sorry that nothing was done in the past. As soon as I took over charge I have been thinking to bring this matter before you and now I am thinking of bringing the point raised by you before the Cabinet and of getting an Ordinance issued, if agreed to. Of course I cannot give any definite assurance now until I consult the Cabinet.

The motion of Mr. Syed Abdul Majid that in clause 1(2), in lines 1 and 2, for the words "on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint", the words "from the 9th of April, 1941" be substituted, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. Syed Abdul Majid that in clause 1(2), in lines 1 and 2, for the words "on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint", the words "in such areas on such dates as the terms of the existing Debt Settlement Boards expired or expire" be substituted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 stand part of the Bill was also put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1942, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to address a few words, through you, to the House and especially to the Hon'ble Minister in charge, with regard to this motion. It was the object of the Legislature that the cases should be settled in a short period. But the wording of the constitution and the wording of the Act has demonstrated that there has been extreme laziness on the part of the members of the Boards to expedite the cases. It is regrettable that the cases instituted in 1937 are still pending. Government should see that the cases are settled immediately as soon as they are presented. The object of the legislation will be frustrated if there is any negligence on the part of the members of the Board to expedite matters. The delay in disposing of the cases has really demonstrated the negligence of the members of the Board and has further deteriorated the rural credit in the province of Bengal. Sir, we want the matter between the creditor and the debtor to be disposed of as quickly as possible so that the rural credit may be revived again. I submit, through you, Sir, to the Hon'ble Minister in charge to see that the life of the Board is not extended any further.

In this connection I would also draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the corruption and bribery that are going on in these Boards, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister to enquire into these bribery and corruption.

These are the few words, Sir, I want to place before the Hon'ble Minister with regard to this motion.

Mr. C. MORGAN: Sir, I cannot allow this piece of legislation to pass into law without entering a protest. Mr. Mullick, the then Minister in charge, drew attention last year to the five years' limitation, and said he hoped every one would do their utmost to see that applications had been made within the period prescribed.

It may be true, as suggested in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, that it has not been found possible to conciliate all debts in any particular area within five years from the establishment of the first Board. But in our opinion it cannot be a ground for the proposed legislation that the time for receiving applications for settlement must be extended by a further two years. The fact must be appreciated that nothing in the existing Act precludes a debtor from filing his application within five years, if he is really willing to do so. The fact that he omitted to do so should be construed against him and not against his creditor.

It is very probable that in many cases the creditors have dealt with their advances in various ways seeing that the time-limit for application by the Board is expiring. This measure will certainly jeopardise them bringing the loans once again within the purview of the Boards.

It is, therefore, our conclusion that having regard to the period available to the debtor under the existing law, there is no justification for its extension and further that it will cause positive hardship to the creditors in such cases as we have mentioned above, disturbing arrangements entered in good faith.

While not opposing the passing of the Bill I ask for an assurance from Government that on no consideration whatever, will further extension be asked for.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion for extension of life of the Debt Settlement Boards. But, Sir, there is some difficulty to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister. There are several boards the time-limit of which has expired in the month of December and there are some other Boards the time-limit of which has expired in the month of November. Now, this piece of legislation cannot come into force till the next September. Surely it will come to the Council which may not meet in July next, and then it will have to be sent to His Excellency the Governor for his assent. In the meantime there will be many creditors who having got the decree will not be able to get it executed. Those decrees will be put into execution and land sold. In the meantime, I want a clarification of the point from the Hon'ble Minister. Suppose, in an area in which the creditor resides, the time-limit of the particular Debt Settlement Board has expired in the month of November or December and the creditor goes to the Civil Court to put his decree into execution. The land and all properties of the debtor are put up for sale and auction-purchased by the creditor or some third person. In that case, when the Act comes into force in the month of July or September, what would be the position of this particular debtor because he will have no protection? There is no section in this Act or Bill which provides for anything which will be done during the interim period. So, I want that the Hon'ble Minister should see that the difficulties created to the debtor by the creditor going to the Debt Settlement Board in the interim period should be removed by a special legislation or by special rules or by an Ordinance.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Deputy Speaker, Sir, ঋণ সালিসী বোর্ডগুলির আয়ুর্বৃদ্ধি করিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট সঙ্গত কাজ করিয়াছেন এবং প্রজাবাৎসল্যের পরিচয় দিয়াছেন। এই বাংলা দেশের খাতকদের মোট সংখ্যার ছয় আনা পরিমাণ খাতক নানা রকম অসুবিধায় এখনও সালিসী বোর্ডে দরখাস্ত করিতে পারে নাই। বোর্ডের যে আয়ুর্বৃদ্ধি হইয়াছে তাহা যথেষ্ট নহে, প্রয়োজন হইলে আরও বৃদ্ধি করিতে হইবে।

Sir, ঋণ সালিসী বোর্ডগুলি গঠনের মধ্যে যথেষ্ট দোষ ত্রুটি ও পক্ষপাতিত্ব আছে ইহাতে খাতকদের উপর যথেষ্ট উপেক্ষা ও অবিচার হইতেছে। মহাজন খাদক ও খাতক

খাদ্য। এই অবস্থায়, Sir, বহু ঋণ সালিসী বোর্ডের, বিশেষ করিয়া নোয়াখালি জেলার অধিকাংশ ঋণ সালিসী বোর্ডের chairman, member, Shylock শ্রেণীর মহাজন ও গ্রাম্য নাঠা প্রকৃতির লোক দ্বারা গঠন করা হইয়াছে। বোর্ডে ইহাদের হাজার হাজার টাকা দাবীর মোকদ্দমা রহিয়াছে। এই মহাজনগুলি নিজেদের অর্থ ও স্বার্থপিপাসা মিটাইবার জন্য গ্রামের unionএর ও দেশের হাজার হাজার পরিবারকে গৃহহীন, অন্নহীন করিয়াছে। ইহাদের নিকট খাতকগণ নিরপেক্ষ বিচার পাইতেছে না, পাইবেও না। আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি, কোন্ নীতি ও যুক্তিতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট মহাজন ও নাঠা প্রকৃতির লোক দ্বারা বোর্ডগুলি গঠন করিয়াছেন? বাংলার মরনমুখী খাতকদিগকে রাক্ষসরূপী মহাজনের গ্রাস হইতে রক্ষা করিবার উদ্দেশ্যেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট ঋণ সালিসী আইন প্রনয়ন করিয়াছেন। বোর্ড গঠনের খাম-খেয়ালি দেখিয়া আমরা কি বলিতে পারি না যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজেই নিজের নীতি ভঙ্গ করিতেছেন এবং নিজেই নিজেকে লোকচক্ষে হেয় করিতেছেন?

Sir, আমরা নিরপেক্ষ নীতিতে বোর্ড গঠনের জন্য দাবী জানাইতেছি। আমরা পক্ষপাতিত্বের কথা বলিব না। যিনি খাতক মহাজন কিছুই নন, সেই রকম independent লোক দেখিয়া chairman করিতে হইবে। বোর্ডে খাতক ও মহাজনের প্রতিনিধি থাকিবে। তবে অবশ্যই খাতক প্রতিনিধির সংখ্যা অধিক থাকিতে হইবে। এইভাবে ঋণ সালিসী বোর্ডগুলি, Special Boardগুলি ও Co-operative Boardগুলি গঠন ও সংশোধন করার প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের সুদৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

MAULVI ABDUL WAHED : Duputy Speaker মহোদয়, আজ চাষী খাতক আইনের যে দ্বিতীয় সংশোধনী বিল পাশ করা হচ্ছে, সে সম্বন্ধে আমি ২।১টী কথা বল্‌তে চাই। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি এদিকে আকর্ষণ কর্‌তে চাই যে সালিশী বোর্ড যতগুলি স্থাপন করা হয়েছে, তার ভিতর অনেকগুলির পাঁচ বৎসর মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে গেছে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে যাওয়ায় তাদের দরখাস্ত নেওয়া বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। সেই সমস্ত বোর্ড, যাদের ৫ বৎসর মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে গেছে এবং যাদের দরখাস্ত নেওয়া বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়েছে, তাঁরা আরও ২ বৎসর সময় পাবে কি না, সেটা আমাদের জানবার প্রয়োজন আছে। এবং যদি তা না পায়, তাহলে যে সব জায়গায় যে সব খাতকরা নানা কারণে সালিসী বোর্ডে যেতে পারে নাই তাদের অত্যন্ত অসুবিধা হবে এবং তারা বিশেষ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হবে। এবং এই বিষয়ে মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কর্‌ছি, তারা যেন সেই সব সুবিধা পায়। আর যে সমস্ত জায়গায় সালিসী বোর্ড স্থাপন করা হয়েছে সেখানে সালিসী বোর্ডের দোষত্রুটি সম্বন্ধে অনেকে অনেক কথাই বলেছেন। এ সম্বন্ধেও আমি ২।১টী কথা বল্‌তে চাই। আমি অনেক জায়গায় দেখিছি যে সালিসী বোর্ড এমন সব লোক দ্বারা গঠন করা হয়েছে এবং সেই সব বোর্ডে এমন সব লোক রয়েছেন যে সাধারণ অশিক্ষিত খাতক চাষীরা ২।৪ আনা পয়সা খরচ না করে তাদের কাছ থেকে তারিখ পর্য্যন্ত পায় না এবং তারা জানে না, দরখাস্ত দিয়েও তারা অনেক সময় জানে না, মোকদ্দমার তারিখ কখন পড়ল্। আবার এমনও দেখা যায় যে অনেক জায়গায় সেই বোর্ডের chairman বা memberরা (interruption) অনেক সময় দেখেছি কোন কোন caseএ ১৩।২ ধারা অনুসারে খাতক ঋণ সাব্যস্ত ক'রে

নোটিশ জারি করেছেন এবং প্রকাশ করেছেন যে তা ১৩।২ ধারা অনুযায়ী সাব্যস্ত হয়ে গেছে। তারপর কিছু দিন পরে দেখা যায় কি কারণে যেন সেটা উল্টান হয়েছে। এতে আমার সন্দেহ হচ্ছে যে মহাজনের তরফে বা ধনিকের তরফ থেকে কিছু স্বার্থ উদ্ধার করে বোর্ডের chairman বা memberরা সেটা ওলট পালট করেছেন কি না। কাজেই আমার মনে হয় এই সব যে দোষ ত্রুটি আছে, এই আইনের ফলে তা সংশোধিত হওয়া উচিত এবং বোর্ডগুলি যাতে প্রকৃত খাঁটি, নিরপেক্ষ, ন্যায় বিচারসম্পন্ন লোকের দ্বারা গঠিত হয়, সেইজন্য মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করছি।

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unlike Mr. Morgan I cannot allow this Bill to be passed into law without a word of appreciation.

Sir, the necessity for this amendment has been sufficiently made clear in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It has been said that in many areas the period of 5 years has elapsed, but the applications for settlement of debt could not be disposed of. Sir, in those cases, it is not the fault of the particular Boards, but it is the fault, if any, of the Government which has not taken proper steps to establish Boards in those areas.

Now, Sir, when this Bill comes into force, it will enable those Boards to entertain fresh applications for settlement of debts and settle the debts.

Now, Sir, regarding the intervening period, that is the period before the Act comes into force, there will be great difficulty, as my learned friend Mr. Israil has pointed out. We do not know what will happen to the applications from persons who want to go in for settlement of debts before the law comes into force. For that, the Hon'ble Minister has said that some Ordinance or some other provision must be made. I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to take immediate steps for making provision for those cases.

Again, my honourable friend Mr. Datta has complained of bribery and corruption that are rampant in Debt Settlement Boards. I do not think that there is any department under Government where there is no bribery and corruption. But it must be said that the ordinary people of villages have done a great good by their honorary services. Of course, there may be some cases where some Chairmen may be guilty of the charge or there may be some black sheep, but that does not justify anybody to say that the whole system should be condemned.

Now, Sir, there is another thing. The old Act ordinarily expires in three years, but the law and the rules made under this Act are so intricate that it takes a long time, one year and even two years, for the members of Debt Settlement Boards to be thoroughly acquainted with the details. Sir, it appears in some cases that when the Boards

are reconstituted, these people, the original members, i.e., the members who were first appointed are changed. That, I think, jeopardises the cause, and it is not desirable that those people should be substituted by new men unless of course there are very grave reasons. So, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to see that in case of reconstitution after three years unless there is any grave reason for the replacement of old members by new members, the old members should not be dismissed or replaced.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, I am grateful to the honourable members for giving me various suggestions for the improvement of the working and management of these Boards.

As for the remarks made by Mr. Datta, I have already explained before this House the various causes for delay in the disposal of cases by Debt Settlement Boards. In the first Act, Sir, there were certain provisions and rules which, as a matter of fact, hampered the progress of ordinary disposal of the cases. There are some times fixed for serving the Debt Settlement Board notices at certain intervals, and these take about 6 to 7 months. Then the creditors also do not generally appear before the Boards, and in the absence of the creditors no case can be finally disposed of and no settlement can be arrived at. In order to remove that defect, Sir, the Act was amended in 1940, and after that as it was found in three months that the cases disposed of were being doubled as before, this amendment has been considered necessary so that the disposal of cases may be expedited as early as possible.

Now, as for the corruption and other things, I have already said, and some of my friends have also said, that there might be some corruption in some of the Boards, but whenever a specific case is brought to my notice or to the notice of the department, immediate action is taken——(Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: All Boards are corrupt.) I may tell this House that if any honourable member of this House will be pleased to bring to my notice any specific charge of corruption or dishonesty or bribery against a particular Board or against a particular member of a Board, I will at once take drastic action against that Board or that member. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Coalition Benches.) But on a mere vague and wide charge, namely, that this has been done and that has been done, I think no Government or no Minister can take any action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have already drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the rearing of Alsatian dogs at the time of discussion of the budget head "Debt Conciliation." Have you taken any action?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Sir, the other day I could not make any reply to the complaint made by my honourable friend, Dr. Sanyal. And, Sir, from the papers I found that that was done long before I took charge of office. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is so.) I do not know whether I shall be able to find out the right or proper person but I shall see how things were managed in the past. I must look into this and I shall look into the other matters which were brought to my notice at the time of discussion of the budget heads "Co-operation" and "Debt Conciliation." So, as for corruption, I again appeal to the honourable members to bring to my notice any charge or any case of corruption or bribery in this respect and if they find me failing in any way they may charge me openly in this House and I shall bear that charge boldly.

As regards disposal of cases, I have already issued instructions not to delay cases for more than six months except for special reasons and I think that my instructions will be carried into effect.

Then, Sir, as to the extension of the life of the Board for two years as raised by Mr. Morgan, I agree with him that the special measure was taken by Government as an extraordinary measure under extraordinary circumstances. I know, Sir, that in the ordinary course of business no such Act ought to have been passed, but having regard to the special circumstances under which the agricultural debtors of this province were placed in, the Government had no other alternative but to adopt a Bill like this to consolidate debts, so that the debt might come within the paying capacity of the debtor. At the same time, during the last five years, on account of some defects in the old Act, the cases could not be disposed of and up till now we have not consolidated even half of the debts of the province. That is why we are extending the life, but I can assure the House that this is a special favour under special circumstances given to the agricultural debtors, and if they fail to come within these two years with all their cases and petitions, Government will not allow any further extension of time.

Now, Sir, as to the point raised by my honourable friend Mr. Israil about suspension of work by some Debt Settlement Boards, this thing expired before the passing of this Act—say, before December—and I have already said that the present Government had no hand in the matter. I say, Sir, that the previous Government ought to have brought in this Bill long, long before—long before the expiry of the term of the Board, but that has not been done. Whatever it may be, I shall see that no debtor can suffer on account of this lapse of time. I also feel that some of the creditors might come up before the civil court for execution of their decrees or for pending cases and the debtors might be harassed by them, but as you know, Sir, we have already passed an amending Act about a month back which gave right to every

debtor to get back his auction-purchased land on payment of certain compensation. If the creditors of Bengal will now rush up before the civil court knowing that the Bill has been passed by the Assembly and will be enacted into law as early as possible and also knowing full well that if any creditor adopts that means Government has got every right to pass another legislation to put a stop to that and undo the wrong that has been done to the debtor, there will be an end of all troubles.

So I think they need not be afraid of it. With your co-operation and help we can do and undo anything and everything. If you find any real injustice or wrong done to any Agricultural Debtors the Bengal Government's helping hand will not be withheld but it will be extended to them. (Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: We are satisfied.) It is my earnest desire to give a new outlook, a new life and a new orientation in the Department of Co-operation as well as Debt Conciliation. I shall spare no pains in improving the whole Department as far as possible. For whatever was done in the past I am not responsible, but for the future I assure this House that I will spare no pains in improving the Department and in giving real benefit to the agriculturists, debtors and cultivators of Bengal.

With these few words, Sir, I hope that it will be accepted.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan that the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Bill, 1942, as settled in the Assembly be passed was then put and agreed to.

Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In accordance with rule 74 of the Assembly Procedure Rules, I gave notice of my intention to ask for leave for the consideration of the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council on the 12th September, 1941. This Bill purports to enable the Government of Bengal to proceed with the abolition of local boards even without the consent of the District Board if this is considered necessary by Government. This Bill was sponsored by Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman in the Council. I crave your indulgence, Sir, to take this Bill up after the Government Bills are passed. I had a talk with the Hon'ble Minister in charge and the Hon'ble Chief Minister and they assured me that it could be taken up.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: When did the honourable member give notice of his intention?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Long ago——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make certain alteration in the programme. Instead of taking the Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941, tomorrow, I want to take it up today.

The Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the recommendations of His Excellency the Governor contained in his message in respect of the Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be considered in detail.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the following amendments recommended by His Excellency the Governor in the Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1941, be passed:—

(1) After clause 1 of the Bill the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"1A. In section 27 of the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act)—

(*a*) After the words 'no appeal shall have been preferred' the words, figures, letters and brackets 'or in respect of which no application under section 37A has been made or in respect of which no appeal under sub-section (*3*) of section 37B has been preferred' shall be inserted;

(*b*) after the words 'dismissed by the Commissioner' the words, figures, letters and brackets 'or in respect of which an application under section 37A may have been made or an appeal under sub-section (*3*) of section 37B may have been preferred and such application or appeal has been dismissed' shall be inserted."

(2) In clause 2 of the Bill—

(*a*) For the words and figures "Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859" the words "said Act" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*1*) of section 37B proposed to be inserted after section 37 of the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859, before the words, figures and letter "Where the deposit required by section 37A" the words "Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act" shall be inserted.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, are you permitting the consideration of the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That does not happen to find a place in the order paper. It is a very important Bill and affects the position of the District Boards. We want to have notice before it is considered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My position is this. I won't press my request for taking it up today if any member of the House objects. I would, however, crave your indulgence for taking it up on the following Government day which will be presumably on the 1st of April. I thought it was a non-contentious measure and Government Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali's Government—had accepted this Bill and allowed it to be passed by the Council. It may be that some personal interest of certain individuals might be injured but that should not stand in the way of a valuable measure like this being passed by this House.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: We have got no objection to taking up the amendment in question. Dr. Sanyal is a constitutional expert. That is why I put a question "When did he give notice of this motion?" That is a point on which the House would like to be informed.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Dr. Sanyal has mentioned that the Hon'ble Chief Minister and myself gave our consent to this matter being brought up before the House. That is so. But there is that proviso which is always understood and it is this. If there is no objection from any quarter in this House then only can this matter be brought up somewhat informally. As Dr. Sanyal has himself pointed out if there is any objection from any member it cannot be taken up in this way, but Dr. Sanyal has made another suggestion that on the next official day this matter may be taken up. As to that my position is this. If it interferes with the regular official business which has so far been decided upon it will not be possible for me to give my consent. If on the other hand, it does not interfere with the official business which has already been fixed up for the day then there is no objection. After the usual official business of the day is disposed of, if the matter comes up in the usual course and is debated upon in this House and if there is no objection raised in the House, it would take its own course.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In that case I take it that if this is taken up on the next Government day there will be no objection.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We will not object.

Adjournment.

The House was adjourned at 10 a.m. till 8-30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 1st of April, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 1st April, 1942, at 8-30 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

When at the commencement of the meeting Secretary first called out question No. 209 (starred) instead of question No. 208 (starred), standing first in the list of questions, the following interpellations were made.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: What about starred question No. 208, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you, Dr. Banerjee, to meet me in my Chamber by appointment when I will fully explain the case to you.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: What is the position of the question, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is taken as answered.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Then you will not allow me to put supplementary questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Pay and prospects of the menials employed in the Assembly Department.

***208.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (1) Will the Deputy Speaker in charge of the Assembly Department be pleased to state how many menial workers are employed in the Assembly Department?

(2) What remuneration they get?

(3) Whether there is a grade system; if so, what is it?

(4) Whether they get any other privileges, as sick leave, Provident Fund, etc.; if so, what are those?

(5) How many hours they have to work?

(6) Whether they get any allowance for overtime work?

(7) Whether he will consider the desirability of giving them Rs.20 per month as starting pay?

(8) How much dearness allowance is being paid to the menial staff?

(9) Whether the menial workers are being paid dearness allowance proportionate to the rise in cost of living?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy): (1) to (3) (*a*) 42 Permanent Establishment menials.

(*b*) 11 Temporary Establishment menials for Sessions only.

(*c*) 36 Contingency menials.

A statement is laid on the Table.

(4) (*a*) Permanent Establishment menials are entitled to leave like those in Superior Establishment with an allowance under Bengal Service Rules. They are also entitled to get casual leave, hospital leave and extraordinary leave under the same Rules.

(*b*) Contingency menials are entitled to casual leave and hospital leave with allowances and extraordinary leave without allowances under the above Rules.

(*c*) Under General Provident Fund (Bengal Services) Rules the menials, either on Permanent Establishment or on Contingent Establishment cannot subscribe to the Provident Fund but the Establishment menials are entitled to pension or gratuity under the Civil Service Regulations.

(5) (*a*) During Sessions in normal times the attendance is usually from 10 a.m. to one hour after the House adjourns. They are to work longer if circumstances demand.

(*b*) During off-Sessions usual office hours from 10 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. Most of the Contingency menials are to work for 7 to 8 hours in normal times in the morning and evening as the nature of their work so demands.

(6) No.

(7) The pay and prospects and other service conditions, etc., are determined by Government as in case of other Government servants.

(8) At the rate of Re.1 per month from February, 1941, to January, 1942, and at Rs.2 since February, 1942, under orders of Government.

(9) The rate of allowance and its basis are determined by Government.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (1), (2) and (3) of starred question No. 208 (short notice).

MENIAL ESTABLISHMENT (53).

Post.	Grade.
1 Library daftry	Rs.25—1/2—35.
3 Daftries	Rs.20—1/4—27.
2 Jamadars	Rs.20—1/2—24.
8 Peons	Rs.15—1/5—19.
3 Cycle peons	Rs.13—1/5—17 plus a special pay of Rs.2 plus a compensatory allowance of Rs.2 each.
19 Peons	Rs.13—1/5—17 plus a compensatory allowance of Rs.2 each.
11 Peons (Temporary for Sessions only)	Rs.13 plus a compensatory allowance of Rs 2 each.
4 Durwans	Rs.15—1/5—19.
2 Durwans	Rs.13—1/5—17 plus a compensatory allowance of Rs.2 each.

CONTINGENCY MENIALS (36).

Post.	Grade.
1 Head polisher	Rs.30 (fixed).
2 Polishers	Rs.25 (fixed) each.
1 Head farash	Rs.20 (fixed).
1 Second farash	Rs.18 plus Rs.2 as vacuum cleaner.
8 Farashes	Rs.18 (fixed) each.
9 Sweepers	Rs.13 (fixed) each.
2 Night Watchmen ..	Rs.13 (fixed) each.
1 Bhisti	Rs.10 (fixed).
1 Head mali	Rs.20—1/2—35.
1 Second mali	Rs.17 (fixed).
8 Malis	Rs.15 (fixed) each.
1 Mistri (part time) ..	Rs.3 (fixed).

Besides this one or two farashes or sweepers are appointed during Sessions at Rs.18 or Rs.13 respectively.

A.R.P. measure in Model School, Calcutta.

***209. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any air raid precaution measure has been taken in the Calcutta Model School at 8, European Asylum Lane, Calcutta?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any instruction for the granting of emergency transfer certificates to the boys was issued to the school up to the 19th February, 1942?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of boys who applied for emergency certificates between January and 20th February, 1942; and

(*ii*) the number of them that have been granted such certificates?

(*e*) Is it a fact that ordinary transfer certificates instead of emergency ones have been granted to the boys?

(*f*) Is it also a fact that fine was realised from the boys who could not pay their fees for January, 1942, for leaving Calcutta, which has been declared an emergency area?

(*g*) If the answers to (*e*) and (*f*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing immediate instruction to the said school for the granting of emergency transfer certificates to all who have been given ordinary ones?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) No. The building of the school is not considered strong enough for the adoption of approved protective measures.

(*b*) and (*c*) The question was then under consideration. It was felt that a uniform procedure should be adopted in the case of all middle English schools in vulnerable areas. It has since been decided that emergency transfer certificates should be issued.

(*d*) (*i*) One.

(*ii*) None.

(*e*) One ordinary transfer certificate was issued.

(*f*) and (*h*) Yes.

(*g*) In the unusual circumstances, Government will be prepared to consider applications for the remission of fines.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to the replies to questions (*d*) (*i*) and (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the certificate was not granted although one student applied for such an emergency transfer certificates?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The point was then not fully considered by Government.

(Starred questions Nos. 210-213 were held over till the next day.)

Advance of money by Government to Tippera District Board for test relief works in flood-affected areas.

***214. Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABIDUR REZA CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether any money has been advanced by Government to the Tippera District Board for test relief (earth-works) works in the flood-affected areas in Tippera this year?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the advance was made?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an advance for earth-works within a short period?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) Yes. Rs. 48,400.

(*b*) The following advances were made on the dates noted against each:—

	Rs.	
	5,000	.. On 21st October, 1941.
	5,000	.. On 4th November, 1941.
	3,400	.. On 8th November, 1941.
	15,000	.. On 17th November, 1941.
	10,000	.. On 9th December, 1941.
	10,000	.. On 27th February, 1942.
Total ..	48,400	

(*c*) Further advance will be made if considered necessary by the local authorities.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any demand has been made by the District Magistrate of Tippera for a further sum?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: No, as far as I am aware.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any demand has been made by the District Board for any further advance?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I have got no information to that effect, but it will be seen from the answer I have given that further advance will be made if considered necessary by the local authorities. If any demand is made, Government will certainly consider it on its merits.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any demand at all?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am not aware of it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the grant was made for earthworks or for any other test relief works?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: So far as my present information goes, it was for test relief including earthworks, but if the honourable member desires a further enquiry to be made, I shall be glad to do it.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers the desirability of issuing instructions to the District Magistrates to consult all the local members of the Legislative Assembly in the matter of administration of relief?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: As I have indicated in some of my speeches and in my answers to questions in this session of the House, so far as the question of test relief and other relief work is concerned, I propose to set up a machinery on which the local members of the Legislative Assembly will certainly be represented.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that the District Magistrates are not aware of the proceedings of this House as well as of what the Minister says in answer to questions put by members, he will be prepared to issue instructions to the District Magistrates to that effect?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: District Magistrates are generally informed about the decisions made by the Provincial Government.

Rice stock in Chittagong.

***215. Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QADIR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government have got any account of the present stock of rice in the Chittagong port;

(*ii*) whether it will meet the demand of Chittagong till the new harvest is available in the market; and

(*iii*) whether at present any rice is imported to Chittagong from outside countries?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of stopping export of rice from Chittagong to other districts this year?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (*a*) (*i*) The stock in Chittagong on 18th March, 1942, was between 90,000 and 100,000 bags of rice.

(*ii*) In view of the evacuation which is still going on from this area, it is expected that this stock will not be altogether inadequate. But if there is any inadequacy at any time, necessary supplies can be obtained from neighbouring districts.

(*iii*) Yes, import in small quantities from Akyab is continuing.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the monthly consumption of rice in Chittagong at the present time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I want notice.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the neighbouring districts from which he expects supply of rice in case the stock in Chittagong port falls short?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Noakhali, Tippera and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In view of the answer he has given to my previous question that he does not know what is the monthly consumption of rice in the district of Chittagong, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what makes him say that it is expected that the stock there at present will not be altogether inadequate?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Because a considerable exodus is taking place from Chittagong

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are a large number of evacuees in Chittagong from Akyab and Burma and there is a great consumption of rice on account of these evacuees?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As there is addition, there is substraction too, and therefore the Government hopes that the stock will not be inadequate.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the two districts of Noakhali and Tippera are not self-sufficient and that they get supplies of rice from Akyab every year in order to meet the shortage?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The official information is that there is a surplus production of rice this year and therefore it is expected that the neighbouring districts will be able to meet their requirements in times of need.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state up to what time the import from Akyab was continuing?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Until very recently.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to give any actual time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: My answers relate to the period ending 18th March, 1942.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate quantity of imports from Akyab?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on account of the floods in the district of Tippera last year there was destruction of crops over a large area?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, I know that.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister that there is a surplus of rice in Noakhali, will he be pleased to state if he is aware that in a large area covering several thanas in Noakhali there was no crop practically on account of flood and cyclone last year?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, but that is being compensated, according to official information, by the present prosperity of the district.

Dearness allowance to factory workers and Government employees.

***216. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour and Commerce Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what have been the index of the cost of living of factory workers month by month since the beginning of the war;

(*b*) what steps have been taken to pay dearness allowance to the menials employed by Government of Bengal, proportionate to the rise in the cost of living; and

(*c*) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to induce the factory owners to pay dearness allowance to their employees proportionate to the rise in the cost of living?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) A statement showing cost of living index figures in different months since the beginning of the war compiled in the office of the Chief Controller of Prices is laid on the Table.

(*b*) All Government employees drawing Rs.30 or less per month have been allowed a dearness allowance of Re.1 per month since 1st February, 1941. For those amongst them who are stationed at Calcutta, Alipore, Howrah town and Darjeeling, this has been increased to Rs.2 from 1st February, 1942. This has been done to compensate them for the increased cost of living in these places.

(c) The factory owners have in fact been paying dearness allowances to their employees. The rates of such allowances vary in different industries and concerns. This department has been endeavouring to co-ordinate increase in wages or allowances so as to compensate for the increased cost of living. In order that the labourers get a fair deal, the Labour Commissioner has been in close touch with the employers and employed of the industries and has been trying to redress all genuine grievances of labourers in respect of wages. Government do not consider however that with every rise in the cost of living there should be a proportionate rise in wages. For it is a complex question involving consideration of the capacity of the industry to pay, and the inherent danger of inflation.

Statement referred to in clause (i) of starred question No. 216.

Cost of living index numbers for working classes in and around Calcutta on the basis of retail prices of certain essential articles.

Dates.	Index numbers.	Dates.	Index numbers.
1-9-1939	100	6-2-1941	111
18-10-1939	107	25-2-1941	111
1-11-1939	109	10-3-1941	109
21-12-1939	108	27-3-1941	110
25-1-1940	107	8-4-1941	110
22-2-1940	105	24-4-1941	110
6-3-1940	105	8-5-1941	111
20-3-1940	105	26-5-1941	112
6-4-1940	104	8-6-1941	113
21-5-1940	105	23-6-1941	114
25-6-1940	105	7-7-1941	114
11-7-1940	106	22-7-1941	116
25-7-1940	107	6-8-1941	117
15-8-1940	106	21-8-1941	116
3-9-1940	106	5-9-1941	117
16-9-1940	107	23-9-1941	119
30-9-1940	108	7-10-1941	120
17-10-1940	108	9-11-1941	121
5-11-1940	108	22-11-1941	121
21-11-1940	109	8-12-1941	129
6-12-1940	109	22-12-1941	123
22-12-1940	109	7-1-1942	121
6-1-1941	110	30-1-1942	122
23-1-1941	110	25-2-1942	124

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to his statement laid on the table that on 25th February, 1942, the cost of living index was 124, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis has he arrived at this figure? Was any enquiry held?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: No public enquiry was held, but, as a matter of fact, the Controller of Prices took every relevant and material fact into consideration in coming to this index figure.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Was ever any enquiry held by the Government after the outbreak of the war to settle the cost of living index?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not aware of any.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how has he arrived at these figures without having any enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The figures are based on examination by experts.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is at present the increase in the prices of the food group?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The figures are different in different cases.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, there are four groups—food group, fuel group, miscellaneous group and another group. My question is what is the present increase in percentage in the prices of the food group in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: About 20 per cent., but that is not uniform in all cases.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the increase in the prices in the fuel group?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am not prepared just now to answer this question without reference to my papers.

Dr. SURSH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to his answer (*c*) that the Labour Commissioner is in touch with the employers and employed of the industries, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long has he been in touch?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Since he joined his appointment in the beginning of January, I think.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the previous Labour Commissioner was not in touch?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I was not in office then and I cannot say the measure of his touchability with these classes.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the result of his being in touch since January last?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: The situation is quieter.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that during this period, that is after January, 1942, on the demand of dearness allowance, there was a strike of 25 labourers in the Budge Budge jute mills and also of other labourers in jute mills in and around Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: All these troubles have come to an end through his intervention.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the Labour Commissioner is quite incompetent to deal with employers, that is, the employers do not listen to him?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, it is not a matter of opinion. It is a constitutional question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that his being in touch has been futile as the capitalists do not abide by his decision?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I am of opinion that it has been productive of more good than at any time before.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Has the Labour Commissioner been able to do anything for the labourers of jute mills in course of his two months' intervention?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I think so.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please make a definite statement as to what good has been done to the labourers of jute mills due to his intervention?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Generally I can state although I cannot state the exact percentage. There has been an improvement in the condition of labourers on a proportion ranging from 15 to 20 per cent

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much dearness allowance has been allowed at present to the labourers in jute mills in and around Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: As I said, it is ranging between 15 and 20 per cent.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In case this figure is not correct, will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he will enforce this decision on the mill-owners?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question. It does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount of dearness allowance the labourers of jute mills were getting before January, 1942?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Government will be quite prepared to investigate that matter.

Shifting of Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

***217A.** (SHORT NOTICE) **Mr. JATINDRA NATH CHAKRABARTY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any proposal for shifting the

Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, during the war period is under contemplation of Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and where it is likely to be shifted?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of shifting the College immediately?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: A proposal has been received by Government which is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Jute Committees in Chittagong.

91. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether Union Jute Committees have been formed in the Fatickchari and other jute-growing thanas of the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The density of jute lands in Chittagong is very low. The criterion of forming a Jute Committee is that the Union should contain at least 300 jute *khatians* but there are only 271 jute *khatians* in the whole of police-station Fatickchari. The total recorded jute area is 75 acres only. Hence it was considered quite unnecessary to establish any Union Jute Committees in the police-station.

Under the provision of sub-section (7) of section 6 of the Jute Regulation Act, the Government by notification No. 3072, dated the 19th October, 1940, have appointed all the officers of the Jute Regulation Department not below the rank of Assistant Inspectors to perform all the functions of a Union Jute Committee in all areas where the density of jute plots is low and where consequently Union Jute Committees have not been established. So far no complaint of any inconvenience has been received. Hence there is no contemplation to make any change.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I have the leave of the House to move the adjournment motion on the supersession of Bhatpara municipality of which I gave notice and to which you were pleased to give your consent? I am handing over the statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to your motion you did not take the first opportunity available, because the matter was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the 23rd and there were three or four sittings, but you did not take the first opportunity.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have my explanation for that. I will satisfy you on that point. On the 24th, 25th and 26th there were budget discussions, and you are aware that in the morning session during the budget discussion no adjournment motion is allowed. (MR. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: No, no.) I submit that those who were affected by this order approached me as well as the Hon'ble Minister in charge and the Hon'ble Minister in charge over the phone gave them to understand on the 26th that nothing more could be done. It was only after that this arose I may further point out——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will determine the admissibility of your motion later. Now let me know whether the Government has got any statement to make.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Without raising any objection to the admissibility of this motion as has been directed by you, Sir, I am prepared to make this statement that I am as anxious as anyone else in this House that the normal course of events ought to have been allowed to run if it was found possible to do so, namely, by holding an election But unfortunately the position of affairs in the municipality was such that an election could not be allowed to take place and supersession became necessary. At the same time I share and reciprocate the anxiety of the honourable member who has given notice of this motion that an election should be allowed to be held as early as possible. Well, under the Act and under the rules no election can take place on the electoral rolls which hold good for the current year or the next financial year, unless a fresh electoral roll is prepared, and as soon as a fresh electoral roll is prepared and as soon as the relevant rules allow, an election will certainly be held.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of this statement of the position I certainly do not want to take much time of the House and press the adjournment motion on virtually the last day of the session.

I only submit that Government would be pleased to see that the rate-payers may have an opportunity of giving their decision at as early a date as possible and even if a fresh electoral roll is to be ordered, that should not take more than seven months at the most.

With these observations, Sir, I do not press the adjournment motion.

Incident at Sealdah Station.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I have your permission, Sir, for making a statement for obtaining information from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Defence over a very important matter which was published in yesterday's *Harijan* with an article "Inhuman if true". This article, Sir, was based on a certain correspondence sent to Mahatma Gandhi by the Honorary Secretary of the Social Service Department of the Marwari Relief Society. The correspondent says that on the night of the 14th March at the Sealdah station a British Tommy caught hold of a small child belonging to one of the poor evacuees and threw the child under the train. (Dr NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Shocking!) Then, Sir, the correspondent further says that he reported the matter to the station military authorities but their attitude was anything but sympathetic. (KHAN BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI: As usual.) He further says that he approached Mr. K. Sen, I.C.S., over the matter and though he promised to enquire into it, nothing has been done as yet to rectify it. The incident took place on the 14th of March and the correspondence was sent to Mahatma Gandhi and Mahatma Gandhi has published the correspondence with an article under the heading "Inhuman if true". Mahatma Gandhi has said, "I trust that the Marwari Relief Society will not leave the matter till it is thoroughly thrashed out——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want information from the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, Sir

We do not wish to hush up the matter if the case is proved as reported by the correspondent. The correspondent takes all the responsibility for the truthfulness of the statement. The question before the Hon'ble Minister is this: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the incident or of the truth of the information as laid down in the correspondence, and, if so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter, and whether the Hon'ble Minister has made any enquiry to find out the real offender and to make amends for the incident, and if so, is the Hon'ble Minister willing to take up the matter, make an enquiry into it and let us know what happened on the night of the 14th March?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am thankul to the honourable member for having brought this matter before the House. At the same time I should have liked that the matter should have been brought to my notice or to the notice of the department concerned at an earlier date, because in that event probably investigations would be easier. So far as my responsibility is concerned, I have absolutely none in this matter. I can make my position clear presently. This is a matter which took place at the Sealdah station and it is alleged that a certain military officer or private was responsible for this. It is not a matter of Civil Defence and as such has not come to my notice. It has not come to my notice until now except that when I visited the Sealdah station a few days ago to see the arrival of an evacuees' train, one or two workers of the Marwari Relief Society mentioned to me in casual conversation that an incident of this nature had taken place and that in spite of their best endeavour they could not at all trace the alleged culprit. They said that under the circumstances they had no other alternative but to drop the matter. For the first time I am hearing that the matter was brought to the notice of Mr. K. Sen and he promised to make an enquiry. Now that it has been brought to my notice I shall certainly take up the matter and see what can be done to bring justice to the door of the offender.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are thoroughly dissatisfied with the nature of the reply and under the rules I propose to move an adjournment motion straightaway, namely, that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz.——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you should give proper notice in proper form.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That will take time. There is a Parliamentary convention that whenever a Minister gives an unsatisfactory reply and when the reply has on the face of it no foundation, an adjournment motion——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That may be the procedure of the House of Commons——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is the convention in the Central Legislature also.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be in the Central Legislature also, but so far as our rules are concerned, I find no such provision in the rules of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. If you want to do anything, you should give proper notice of the relevant motion and I will consider it——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is nothing to prevent it. Here the Hon'ble Minister in charge has himself admitted that the matter was brought to his notice and in the same breath he says this was the first time he came to hear of it. Is it not an absurd proposition?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Presentation of Authenticated Schedules.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, in pursuance of section 80 (*2*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly the Schedule of authorised expenditure for 1942-43 authenticated by the signature of the Governor under sub-section (*1*) thereof.

In pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (*2*) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorised expenditure for 1941-42 authenticated by the signature of the Governor under sub-section (*1*) of section 80 read with section 81.

In pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (*2*) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorised expenditure for 1939-40 authenticated by the signature of the Governor under sub-section (*1*) of section 80 read with section 81.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Secondary Education, Bill, 1942.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am making a slight alteration in the Order Paper. As the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq is ill I shall ask the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim to move his motion (Item No. 5).

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1942.

Secretary then read the short-title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1942, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

(1) Mr. Syed Badrudduja,

(2) Dr. Sanaullah,

(3) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,
(4) Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal,
(5) Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur,
(6) Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas,
(7) Babu Premhari Barma,
(8) Dr. H. C. Mukherji,
(9) Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy,
(10) Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin, C.B.E.,
(11) Mr. Fazlur Rahman (Dacca),
(12) Mr. Abdulla-Al Mahmood,
(13) Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri,
(14) Mr. Atul Chandra Sen,
(15) Mr. Shahedali,
(16) Mr. W. C. Wordsworth, C.I.E., and
(17) The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education Department (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by the 31st July, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being nine.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not yet received the consent of Dr. H. C. Mukherjee, one of the members you have proposed. I exclude him temporarily.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1942.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last 5 days I have been down with fever and yet, Sir, the call of public duty is such that when a Bill of this character is on the anvil one could not possibly stay at home, specially when so much of public attention has been drawn to this Bill ever since it was first contemplated. The new draft that has been circulated to us only two days ago leaves us almost entirely in the same position of despondency as the original draft of 1940 did. In the original Bill there were certain very objectionable features particularly in regard to the meticulous control by Government at every stage of the work of the Secondary Education Board. These appear to have been slightly mellowed down in the present Bill, but apart from this and apart from certain other minor improvements, particularly with regard to the compensation payable to the University of Calcutta, this Bill fails to respond to the public demand expressed throughout the

length and breadth of this province during the last two years and more. On the last occasion all the Opposition parties and virtually all Hindus in this House unitedly——

Mr. A. M. A. HAMID: Not all, not the Scheduled Castes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Every one of the Hindus except a few henchmen—I have got with me signatures of the members—unitedly expressed that this Bill which was then drafted should be revised, particularly with a view to secure especially the following, namely, that only secular education was to be provided for and that the Executive Council and the Board should be constituted in such a way as to represent academic interests only on purely non-communal lines. The observations then made were contained in a joint amendment given notice of under the leadership of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, which was given notice of in the July-September session, 1941. If you scan that list of members who signed the joint amendment you will notice that all sections of the Hindus in the House were virtually represented except a certain class of protégés of the Muslim members.

It was also pointed out at that time that the Secondary Education Bill proposed by Government did not fully appreciate the great work of educational improvement that has been done in this Province by non-official agencies and particularly by one big community of the Province. In the constitution of the Board and the Executive Council and in the provisions for securing grants-in-aid to existing institutions inadequate appreciation was made of the noble contributions made by the Hindus of Bengal. It is not for me to plead the Hindu cause, but we of the Congress stand for justice and fairplay, and I most emphatically state today that in this respect the present Bill continues to be more defective than its predecessor with regard to the appreciation of the great work done by the Hindus of Bengal in the advancement of learning. In the original Bill which was very much resented throughout the length and breadth of the province the total number of members proposed in the Board was 50. Out of these 50 members 17 members were proposed to be Caste Hindus and 5 Scheduled Caste Hindus, the total number of Hindu representatives being 22.

As against that there was a proposal for 20 Muslim members and Europeans and Anglo-Indians were provided with 8 seats. That is out of a total number of 50—(Mr. I. A. CLARK: Question!) Mr. Clark questions but I would ask him to please read the Bill—the original Bill—before he questions. Sir, in the original Bill Muslims were given 40 per cent. of the total number, the Hindus were given 44 per cent. of the total number and 16 per cent. to others whom at conferences we used to call monkeys. Sir, in that old Bill non-officials numbered 31 as against officials and nominated 19; and

there were 4 women as against 46 men. In the new Bill, that has been introduced today, the total number of members on the Board is proposed to be 60, out of which the Caste Hindus get a share of 18 only and Scheduled Castes 7, making a total of 25 for the Hindus; the Muslims get an equal number of 25, and the Europeans and Anglo-Indians retain their 8 seats and the Indian Christians and the Buddhists get 2 seats. This brings up the total from 50 to 60. It will thus be seen that in the composition of the Board the position of the Caste Hindus as well as of the Hindus in general has been on the whole further reduced and brought down to a position of incompetence compared even to what was proposed in the old Bill. There has been some improvement in the proportion of non-officials as against officials, I admit. In the new Bill there is a proposal for 44 non-officials as against 16 officials and nominated members. I am including nominated members in the official group for obvious reasons. (Mr K. SHAHABUDDIN: So many officials!) Yes, 16 official and nominated members, and yet it is supposed by the Cabinet or by the Progressive Coalition party in support of the new Government that this Bill is an improvement on the past so far as communal relations are concerned. In the composition of the Executive Committee the position does not reveal any improvement to speak of over the original Bill. The original Bill proposed a very business-like small executive council of 14 members only, out of which 5 were proposed to be Caste Hindus and 1 Scheduled Caste member making a total of 6 for Hindus and the Muslims got 5; that is, compared to the Hindus they were one less, and the Anglo-Indians and Europeans were likely to get 3 —the total coming up to 14. (A VOICE: Why likely?) I was saying "likely to get 3 seats" because that depended upon the choice of officials to some extent.

Sir, in the new draft the executive council has been expanded to a rather unwieldy figure of 23, which, I am afraid, might yet need a working committee to make it a businesslike body in future, and out of these 23 members 10 are supposed to be Hindus and if the Vice-President is a Hindu, then alone this 10 will be achieved; otherwise there may be only 9 Hindus in all, out of which one would be a scheduled caste member, the Muslims will be 10 if the Vice-President is a Hindu, otherwise the Muslims will be 11 as against 9 Hindus including 1 scheduled caste member; and Europeans and Anglo-Indians will have 3 seats. The total would come up to 23. Thus it will be seen that both in the composition of the Board as well as in the composition of the executive council the position of Hindus in general and Caste Hindus in particular has been made further unacceptable; and yet the feeling runs high in the country that this Bill which has come out of the Cabinet in which the Hon'ble Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee is one luminary must be obviously better

and more acceptable to the Hindu community. Sir, if all the evils of the country can be resolved if one or two individual members can be won over to the Cabinet and if the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee and the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq can go shoulder to shoulder throughout the length and breadth of the country proclaiming that now that they are together in the Cabinet, the Hindus and the Muslims need not fight on their old sectional or communal interest any more—I fail to understand the logic of the past agitation.

Sir, the second most objectionable feature that has been introduced in the present Bill and which was absent in the past is that this Bill has introduced Pakistan in the sphere of education—(Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: And Hindustan as well.) No, Pakistan both for the Hindus as well as for the Muslims. The Hindus would not call that scheme Hindusthan. They would have to call it by some unknown name which the future generation alone will have to discover. This Bill proposes, contrary to the agitation carried on throughout the length and breadth of the country demanding to have a Bill based upon nationalism only and nothing else, to divide our younger generation into five different categories. From the very early childhood of our younger generation they will have to make their choice as to whether they would like to remain true to the ideals of nationalism based on secular education alone or they would have general education combined with instructions in subjects related to Islamic culture and religion, or they would prefer to have education which combines instructions in general subjects with instructions in subjects related to Hindu culture and religion. And not to stop even at that. They may also have a choice as to whether they would have education entirely related to Islamic culture and religion, or in the alternative, entirely related to Hindu culture and religion. I cannot conceive of a greater reactionary measure calculated to divide the nation and to split up our country in future into a number of disunited groups and factions. I condemn the Bill with the greatest emphasis that I can command, if not for any other reason, at least for this reason that this Bill is anti-national to its core. It does not meet the public demand in the country, public demand which was voiced from platform under no less a leadership than that of the present working President of the Hindu Mahasabha—Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee.

Further, Sir, this Bill, contrary to what we were given to understand at certain stages, does not contemplate to provide full control over the inspectorate staff, if not to start with immediately, at least within two or three years. For five long years at least the entire staff of inspectorate will remain under the control and guidance of the Provincial Government and the Board of Secondary Education will have to take its orders from the Provincial Government in the matter of inspection of schools purported to be under its own jurisdiction.

Sir, there have been some improvements in minor details and I would fail in my duty if I do not place on record our appreciation of the little mercies that have been bestowed. I do appreciate that in the provisions for preparation of the budget and the making out of the approved budget, considerable improvement over the past position has been made. I appreciate that special arrangements that have been provided for looking after special interests like women's education and Scheduled Castes education meet public demand. But, Sir, there is one most astounding feature of two committees functioning in co-operation with the Board—the Hindu Education Committee and the Islamic Education Committee. The two committees that will function have been so vested with power that even the Executive Council will not be in a position to alter the decision of these two committees unless three-fourths of the whole number of members of the Executive Council are opposed to the confirmation of their decision. This is virtually creating an *imperium in imperio*, a State within a State. I fail to understand how the interests of education can be served by this method of parcelling out communities and giving practically a veto to sub-committees of a parent body. It smacks of the demand made by one leader of a great Indian community for claiming a veto on any constitutional change to be retained in his own hand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, how long will you take?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Five minutes, Sir.

Sir, it is not with any spirit of non-co-operation that we lay before the House our observations this morning. It is more with a spirit of despondency and despair than with a spirit of resistance and fighting.

Sir, great things were expected from this new Cabinet. When Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, two of the luminaries of the University of Calcutta, took the reins of office in the present Cabinet, there was a sigh of relief in the educational sphere of the province and it was felt that so long as these two eminent educationists were there there would at least be some proper attempt made to safeguard legitimate interests of various communities. I would like to appeal to them not to yield to any political stunts in this connection. Education stands above all minor, petty, local and sectional considerations. I would appeal to them not to seek to rush through this legislation simply because there is an event going on at one corner of the country today. I would ask the entire Cabinet once again to institute a small conference of leaders of public opinion and leaders and important members of certain parties of the House to find out if it is yet possible to have an agreed Bill. There was a time,

Sir, when we were given to understand by the last Government, over which the present Chief Minister also presided and at a time when the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq had the charge of education portfolio that the Muslims of Bengal would not be so unreasonable as to demand the head of the Hindus on the charger and would be prepared to adjust the claims on any reasonable basis, and we were given to understand that even 40 per cent. of Muslim representation on proper lines would satisfy them. Why, Sir, is then the attempt to increase the representation now, and why, Sir, would they now think that their interests and the interests of the nation would be safe only if they could bring down the Hindus in their number to allow the third parties to have increased seats? It is felt that the increase of nominated and European members and the increase in the official members has been designed to balance the contending parties amongst the Muslims and the Hindus. Let us forget that kind of political philosophy for the time being. Sir, those of the Muslim League who are today in the Opposition, I hope, realise that the advancement of the country does not depend upon sharing the spoils on numerical basis. Let us, all Indians and Bengalees, unite as one nation to demand that we shall create our own destiny, we shall decide our own fate, we shall determine what kind of education our children will have, and not permit a third party or parties to intervene and dictate when we will be quarrelling amongst ourselves.

Sir, I submit that the Bill should not be passed in a hurry There have been evidences in the Bill itself which will show that the draft has been so hurriedly made that mistakes are already there. You will notice that in clause 21, sub-clause (*k*), in the list of executive council members proposed, it is said that there will be 8 members of the Board to be elected in the prescribed manner of whom 5 shall be Muslims, 3 shall be Hindus and one shall be European. Surely Dr. Jenkins knows that much of mathematics that 5+3+1 do not make 8 but 9. There are similar mistakes in other places also. I sympathise with those who were responsible for the drafting in a hurry, and I submit that the Bill should be sent for eliciting public opinion thereon before the next session meets, that is, by the end of July, 1942.

Heavens will not fall if these three months or four months are allowed for the public of Bengal as well as for the Government of Bengal to examine the various proposals more carefully and to find out if this new Bill should be pursued and pressed in the form in which it stands.

Sir, it may be argued that when the Bill is being sent to the Select Committee, all these defects may be cured there. I submit that that may be one view of things, but there is just a technical difficulty with regard to the Pakisthanisation of education, in regard to the division

of secondary education under categories where different communities can have separatist educational tendencies fostered. I feel that if that is taken as a principle embodied in the Bill, it will be extremely unwise to send the Bill in its present form to the Select Committee. If, on the contrary, the Hon'ble Minister in charge is in a position to assure the House and the country that every section of this Bill is open to alteration and modification by the Select Committee whatever may be its present form, we at least will not stand in the way of pursuing a measure which is admittedly one of the most important measures that the country needs. We will not press this motion if we are assured that there is nothing like a principle in the present draft except that there should be a Secondary Education Bill in the country, and if that assurance comes up it will then be for us to find out what attitude our party will take with regard to this measure.

With these observations, Sir, I hope that my amendment will be accepted by the House.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, let me tell this House that Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee is reported to be the author of the Bill. A different draft was placed before the Cabinet and I understand that the hand of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has given the present shape to the Bill. Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and his community raised a number of objections to the Secondary Education Bill that was being considered by this House last November. The first objection was that the previous Bill was communal in character. In this Bill also the shares of the various community to the representation on the Board have been specified. May I ask, Sir, in what way, in what respect is the present Bill different from the previous one?

The second objection was that the Board as envisaged in the previous Bill was not autonomous inasmuch as the official, nominated and ex-officio members of the Board as well as those members of the Board who might have been otherwise under the influence of the Government were in majority and that the Government had immense powers of interference in the administration by the Board. In the first place, this charge was not correct, and in the second place, if you analyse the provisions of the two Bills, you will find that the proportion in each case of such members as enumerated to the total strength of the Board is practically the same. Again, the Government has as much power of interference under this Bill as it had under the previous one.

The third objection was that the previous Bill did not provide for sufficient funds for the proper development of secondary education. In the previous Bill as reported by the Select Committee, the same provision of Rs. 50 lakhs was made as in the present one. But the difference

today is that the 50 lakhs as provided in the previous Bill was for the development of general secondary education alone whereas the provision of the same amount in the present Bill is for the development of the technical education as well. But not a word is heard against the present Bill on the score of inadequate funds either in the Hindu press or from the Hindu leaders.

The Hindus at first raised those unreal objections which have just been mentioned and having raised them they concluded that the previous Bill was not in the interest of education but was a political measure intended to deprive them of their culture.

Sir, I have just now shown that the very same features continue in the present Bill which were objected to in the previous one. Why then, on this occasion not a little protest is being made, not a little murmur is heard, though on the previous occasion Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee and persons of his way of thinking spat communal venom throughout the Province, resulting in communal riots?

In the present Bill, the mask is taken off Dr. Mookerjee, and his real intention is revealed. He and other leading men of his community have always been wishing to continue their predominance in administration of the secondary education of the Province and as that intention was not to be fulfilled under the previous Bill, they raised a false cry against that Bill. But under the present one their predominance has been ensured, and having ensured that neither Dr. Mookerjee nor the leading men of his community feel the necessity of raising any voice against it. May I ask, Sir, if the objections to the previous Bill by Dr. Mookerjee and his community were either sincere or honest?

In support of my contention I shall presently analyse the provisions of the Bill and show how the Hindus will have a dominating voice in the field of secondary education, if this Bill is passed as law. Here I will draw the attention of my friends, the Muslim members of the Progressive Coalition party, and I shall see what help they can give to us to support this demand or whether they are capable of giving any help at all.

Sir, the Board shall consist of 60 members. I refer to section 4 of the Bill which says that the Board shall be composed of as follows: The President to be appointed by the Provincial Government under section 7. In the Government, as at present constituted, the President will necessarily be a Hindu. (Mr. Atul Chandra Sen: Read the whole paragraph.) Sir, if you take the case of the holders of the offices mentioned in the Bill you will find, if you analyse the bill, that the Board shall consist of 24 Muslims, 28 Hindus, six Europeans, one Indian Christian and one Buddhist. (A voice from the Congress Benches: How do you calculate that? It is pure imagination.) Of

the six Europeans, one Indian Christian and one Buddhist, Dr. H. C. Mukherji will be the Indian Christian and there will be one Buddhist who will usually go with the Hindus. With regard to the Europeans they had no sympathy with the Muslim difficulties in the educational field and they will always go with the Hindus whether they are right or wrong. They may not do it deliberately, but they always fail to see the Muslim point of view. Sir, on the last analysis, out of a Board of 60 members, only 24 are Muslims.

Of these 24 members, you will find, Sir, that 10 are directly under the influence of Dr. S. Mookerjee inasmuch as the constituents who will elect these members will be predominantly Hindus. I can only refer to sub-clause (13) of clause 4 of the Bill to show how the mind works. Previously 5 members were to be elected by the Executive Council of the Dacca University. The Executive Council of the Dacca University consists of 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. Hindus, but Dr. Mookerjee was not satisfied with that even. Therefore he has allowed 3 members to be elected by the Academic Council of the Dacca University where the Hindus are two-thirds and the Muslims only one-third. That is how the mind is working in framing this Bill and that is how they divide representation of Muslims. They have given 24 seats to the Muslims and of the 24 they have taken away 4 Muslims who will only please Dr. Mookerjee.

Then, Sir, with regard to the Executive Council they say that eight members of the Board will be elected in the prescribed manner, of whom five shall be Muslims, three shall be Hindus (including one Scheduled Caste) and one shall be a European or an Anglo-Indian. It will not be 8 then but 9. If that be the calculation the Executive Council will consist of 23 members, and of these 23 members 9 will be Muslims, 12 Hindus and 2 Europeans or Anglo-Indians. The same remarks apply to Europeans or Anglo-Indians. Here also of the 9 members many will be under the influence of the Hindu constituents.

Then, Sir, this is the Executive Council in which the power and the authority of the Board will be vested.

Sir, as regards the Finance Committee it will advise the Board in financial matters. Therefore, it will have great control over the finances of the Board. Of the 4 members here one will be a Muslim.

Then let us take the Recognition and Grants Committee. This committee is to make recommendations to the Executive Council concerning the recognition or withdrawal of recognition of secondary schools. But so far as the distribution of grants-in-aid is concerned which is a very important factor, that will be left entirely in the hands of the Committee. Of the 9 members only 3 shall be Muslims. This Committee will be the final authority in the matter of grants-in-aid and on this committee there are only three Muslims.

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and also of the educationists before the raising of the communal controversy by Dr. Mookerjee that without this power of holding the Matriculation Examination the Board would be an ineffective body and no reform worth the name would be made possible. In Bengal experience has shown that the standard of examination determines to a large extent the character of teaching in the schools. The efficiency of the schools, therefore, will depend not on the Board so much as on the authority that conducts the Matriculation Examination. The present Bill is thus educationally a retrograde measure.

As regards the right of the Calcutta University to prescribe books for the Matriculation examination even when the proposed Board is established we have serious objections to it. The exercise of this power by the University has had a disintegrating influence on the culture, language and social order of the Muslims. The Muslims differ from the rest of the community in religion, tradition, ideals and the language of its sacred and classical literature. Any educational system which does not recognise these factors necessarily has a deteriorating influence on the Muslim culture and social order. This is exactly where the Calcutta University has failed. Both in the interest of education in general and of Muslim education in particular this power of the University should be taken away and vested in the Board.

Sir, section 40 is a strange provision. The present Bill has left the power with the Calcutta University to hold the Matriculation examination and still in anticipation that the University may one day cease to hold it, the Bill by this section provides compensation to the University.

This is extraordinary. If ever the Indian University Act, 1904, is amended and as a result the University ceases to hold the Matriculation examination, then that will be the proper time and the amendment of the said Act will be the proper place for including a financial settlement between the University and the Government.

Sir, we are opposed to this provision here more on the reason of principle than on the ground of technicality. By this provision Government has recognised the right of the University to exploit secondary education for strengthening its post-graduate departments. No University can have such a right and we cannot be a party to such recognition. You know, Sir, that a secondary school in this province is ill-equipped, ill-staffed, its teachers are on starvation salary and consequently the school is rendered inefficient. In the circumstances it is neither fair nor proper that the University should exploit secondary education for maintaining post-graduate departments. The University would have been well-advised to spend the money on improving secondary education of the province.

Sir, I should not be misunderstood. We are strongly of opinion that post-graduate teaching and research are the most important functions of a University and the University is entitled to State assistance in furthering those activities. If the University on ceasing to hold the Matriculation examination and to publish text books, approaches the Government for a grant, not by way of compensation but on the basis of the needs of the University, it will receive our fullest support.

Sir, I should now refer to the solicitude of Dr. Mookerjee for the development of technical education. In this anxiety for developing this branch of education, he has included this within the scope of the present Bill. But one will be astonished to find that no provision has been made to secure the representation of this kind of educational interest on the Executive Council, while its share of representation on the Board has been left to the choice of the Education Minister. A Vocational Education Committee has been set up. But I wonder if this is the sort of the Committee which is needed for the development of vocational education. A study of these provisions has left in me the feeling that the author of this Bill, I mean Dr. Mookerjee, is not at all serious for the development of technical education. It is only a face-saving provision. The inclusion of technical education within the scope of this Bill has been intended to show an apparent improvement on the previous bill.

Sir, I shall now sum up our position in relation to this Bill. Our demands are—

(1) The composition of the Board, of the Executive Council and the Committees should be such as to reflect the population strength of the various peoples of the province.

(2) The Board should be vested with the power of holding a school final examination and the exercise of this power should not be made dependent on the goodwill of the Calcutta University as has been done in the present Bill. If you refer to clause (*e*) of section 20(*1*) you will find that the Board may make regulations for the institution, holding and control of such examinations as it thinks fit including any examination accepted by the University of Calcutta as equivalent to the Matriculation examination of that University. I will ask the Hon'ble Minister to note the clause that the Board will be dependent on the Calcutta University and that without the goodwill or the consent of that University the Board will not be able to hold any school final examination. The third point is that the University should not be allowed to admit any student unless he has passed the school final examination of the Board or any other examination as may be declared equivalent thereto by the Board with the approval of the Government. This leaves the University the choice to hold its

admission test, but in practice it may not be necessary for the University to use this choice. The fourth point is that the powers of the Committees should be such that their decisions should be recommendatory and not final. The fifth point is that the University should cease to prescribe and publish text books. This power should be vested in the Board. The next point is that clause 40 should be repealed which requires that a compensation should be paid to the Calcutta University.

I claim, Sir, that our demands are in the interests of education and Government will see its way to accept them. I claim also that our demands have the support of the whole of the Muslim Bengal. If the Hon'ble the Education Minister oppose this claim, let him test the Muslim public opinion which, I am certain, will be found to be solidly behind our demands.

Sir, I also claim that our demands will receive the support of every honest Hindu who has at heart the interests of education of his children.

Sir, we oppose the circulation motion and support the Select Committee motion.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise my feeble voice in support of the motion moved by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. It would be a great injustice done to the Hon'ble Minister of Education if any one supposes that the Hon'ble Minister is ignorant of the volume of opposition which the previous Bill had raised with regard to its previous position. The agitation against that Bill which has not yet been withdrawn but is still under the legislative anvil and the huge protests which were raised against that Bill by all sections of the community and notably by the educationists of this country, should have induced the Government and specially the Education Minister to ascertain public opinion before they introduced the present Bill. It is idle to suppose that the Education Minister or for the matter of that the Government should think that they are the emporium of all knowledge, all information and all wisdom. I do not know, Sir, what was the harm in ascertaining public opinion before this new Bill had been introduced and before Government had taken any definite action with regard to this matter. Sir, the Floud Commission's Report was before this House a few months before and at that time the then Revenue Minister, Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, gave it out as the considered opinion of Government that Government were not contemplating any action on the Floud Commission's Report unless and until the Government knew the opinion of the people at large and especially of the members of this Legislature. And I think the Hon'ble the Education Minister should have taken that hint and should have tried to act up to that suggestion. After

having committed themselves to a particular policy as enunciated in the present Bill, it is extremely difficult for the Government to withdraw their own motion or to revise their own policy which it has been decided to be thrust upon the people of this country. It is a matter in which every one, be he a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian, is vitally interested. It is neither a parochial matter nor a local matter nor a communal matter, nor anything of this kind. Sir, as has been suggested in all quarters, education should be divested of all such considerations. What is good for Muslim education should also be good for Hindu education. To divide the education of this country into Pakisthan and Hindusthan, as has been done in this Bill, will take the people by surprise. No one had any indication before this Bill was published day before yesterday that Government had in contemplation to divide and set up various boards and sub-boards under the Education Board. Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal and the representative of the Dacca University, Mr. Fazlur Rahman, have both of them tried to analyse the contents of the Bill and they have both tried to criticise the obnoxious principles and measures adopted in this Bill. Sir, I shall not try to go into a comparative criticism of the previous Bill and the present Bill. What I submit before this House is that this motion should be accepted by the House, for in a matter of this kind it is no good rushing the Bill through a Select Committee, but the Government should rather try to ascertain, however distasteful it may be, whether the people at large want it, what are their requirements and whether the Government are in a position to give effect to the joint demands of the communities if joint demands could be made. The volume of opposition which was raised with regard to the old Bill which has not yet been withdrawn must be known to Government members. This is all known to us and to flout that opposition and to bring in a new Bill without even ascertaining the public feeling or public opinion or without giving any adequate heed to those things, I think, is a matter of very doubtful issue.

Sir, Mr. Fazlur Rahman has tried to establish the fact that if the present Bill is passed into law, the Hindu majority will find a place on the Board. I have been taken aback by the logic and reasoning of his speech. Mr. Fazlur Rahman is the accredited agent of the University and if "likelihood" and "possibilities" are his main arguments, then it is time, I should say, that the Dacca University should be mended or ended. If the mentality which has been evinced in this case by Mr. Fazlur Rahman is the mentality of the Dacca University, then it is time that the Dacca University should cease to function.

Sir, with these words, I hope that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Bill will accept the motion that this Bill, before being submitted to the Select Committee, be referred to the country for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we welcome the effort of the Hon'ble Minister to regain the confidence of his community through the introduction of this Bill by the grace and mercy of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, but the method he has adopted to do so is rather clumsy. We were hoping that the Muslim members of the Ministry would bring in this Bill earlier in the session and would find time to go through all the three stages and put it on the Statute Book. That has not been done. Masters of dodges like the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, have brought this Bill at the fag-end of the session, a Bill that has gone to Select Committees, over and over again, and a Bill that has been placed before Specialist and Expert Committees several times. Such a Bill, bristling with difficulties and controversial in every clause of it, is once more being sent to a Select Committee. The whole process appears ridiculous and yet, Sir, as sponsors of the idea underlying it, we are compelled to wish, even this limping, halting and truncated Bill, success for the simple reason, that the Mussalmans of Bengal have held the view, for long, that the University of Calcutta, in its long career, has done nothing to help the educational advancement of the backward communities—and the Muslims are a backward community educationally—and that the time had come to release secondary education from its clutches and place it under an autonomous Board. We had lost confidence in the University of Calcutta and we made efforts to have it replaced by a Secondary Education Board. We were anxious to have a Board established on the lines suggested by the late Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, in the Sadler Committee Report or as established in the different provinces in India. I could never understand why the Bills, introduced previous to the one before us to-day, were opposed so bitterly and why the self-same people are now anxious to push it through. Is it another aspect of contacting with the Muslim masses of Bengal?

The masterly analysis of the Bill, made by the hon'ble member representing the University of Dacca, should open the eyes even of the present Minister for Education. Let them do justice to the Muslims and other backward communities and if they cannot, even then we are prepared to accept a Secondary Education Board as contemplated in this Bill, in the hope that in God's good time when there is an opportunity to put things right and remove the blemishes and defects which now exist in it, we shall do so.

I wish, in their effort to regain the confidence of the Mussalmans, the Muslim section of the Council of Ministers had also found a day for the introduction and re-submission to a Select Committee, of the Calcutta Corporation Bill, also, for that would have fortified their expectations of re-establishing their good faith in the eyes of the Mussalmans.

I was rather astounded at the halting speech and the slow *tempo* of the hon'ble member for the Municipalities of Murshidabad. He has placed before us an interpretation of "nationalism" which in Urdu can be expressed best as میٹھا میٹھا میرا اور کڑوا کڑوا تیرا (All that is sweet is mine and all that is bitter is thine). He complained that there would be 11 Muslims and a lesser number of Hindus in a particular section of the Board and yet he thought he was talking nationalism. I am prepared, in my place, to allow the whole Board to be composed of Hindus provided they can show us justice and fair-play. Representation to me means a share in the administration and so long as the Congress mentality does not realise this point, so long will this country remain a slave.

Sir, the method adopted by the Hon'ble Minister, of not giving us sufficient notice and rushing the Bill through by taking advantage of technicalities and obtaining your permission to introduce it in the House to-day, is not welcome to us. These dodges and the dodges adopted by his colleagues in attacking members on this side of the House without giving them a chance to explain their position and point of view, are not fair to us. For instance, Sir, as you know, I have been trying to explain to the House my position regarding the statement made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in reply to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition, in which my name was specifically mentioned. The Leader of the House stated that my colleagues of the Corporation Coalition Party—which consisted of Anglo-Indians, Labour representatives, nominees of the Government and Muslim Leaguers—and I had co-operated with the Forward Bloc in that body. This is a true statement of fact except that he forgot to mention that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose had not developed his present outlook and leanings either at the commencement or throughout my short-lived but pleasant association with him.

Mr. P. BANERJI: On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Siddiqi, order please. He has raised a point of order.

Mr. P. BANERJI: The honourable member is referring to certain statement about the Corporation. Is he relevant?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear him. How can I say that he is not relevant without hearing him?

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Sir, what has Mr. Subhas Bose got to do with this Bill?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: My object is to impress upon you, Sir, the fact that the methods adopted are not correct and, therefore, according to your own suggestion, Sir, I am giving my personal explanation, at the first possible opportunity afforded to me. I am only stating the policy that I tried to pursue in the Corporation. Had the Leader of the House and his ex-colleagues in the Council of Ministers, listened to my solicitations, made repeatedly, and followed the policy I tried to pursue in the Corporation, I am bold enough to assert that Mr. Bose would have been among us to-day working for the cause of Indian Unity and Mr. Fazlul Huq would not have been forced to choose the strange bed-fellows his adversity has brought him. Neither would he have lost the confidence of his own brotherhood and exchanged it for another of doubtful and undefined parentage. Ever since——

YOUSUF MIRZA: I rise on a point of order, Sir. May we know whether you have allowed the personal explanation now? Or is the honourable member making a statement on something entirely different from the Secondary Education Bill?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is speaking on the Secondary Education Bill, and I am following his speech to see how far he is relevant and how far he is irrelevant.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Ever since I entered politics I have worked for a better understanding between the Hindus and Muslims. It is my belief that our political movement went forward at a rapid pace when the two people worked together and deteriorated when they fell apart. After years of painful experience in the Assembly, I realised that an opportunity had presented itself to me of furthering the object, in howsoever small a degree, and I am glad to state that my colleagues of the Muslim League, who were actuated by the same desire, assisted me in my endeavour wholeheartedly. Not a single step was taken without consulting with Mr. Fazlul Huq and, as a matter of fact, it was he who recommended a settlement with the Bose brothers in preference to that with the Mahasabha, as he himself was anxious and actually having interviews, about that time, with the Bose brothers at the house of a common friend, probably to attain the same objective. I was boastful enough to declare that the co-operation between the Forward Bloc and the Muslim League had ushered in a new era which would translate itself from the city of Calcutta to the Province and even to the country at large. To turn round now and to insinuate that the motive actuating my endeavours was the Mayoral Chair of Calcutta, is indeed ungenerous and uncharitable of him and contrary to facts.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is it your ruling that if it is found to be irrelevant the whole thing will be expunged? After the whole speech is made the question of relevancy will not arise. The mischief has been done already. The point has been raised that the honourable member is making a statement which is thoroughly irrelevant. The honourable member has himself admitted that he is taking this opportunity to give a personal explanation, and in spite of that——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I mean to say is that I am closely following the honourable member's speech. If he is irrelevant, I will certainly ask him not to proceed. If I find that he is beside the point I will not certainly allow him to go any further.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are we to understand, Sir, that so far you have found him to the point?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, so far as I have heard his speech. I have heard other speeches. I have heard your own speech and also the speech of Mr. Fazlur Rahman who spoke on this subject. I am now hearing Mr. Siddiqi and I think that up till now he is in order.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I am trying to place before the House my innermost feelings as regards a possible method of co-operation between the Hindus and the Mussalmans, even now, on this vexed question of a Secondary Education Board. I think I am perfectly justified in giving an explanation of my own and telling the junior members in this House, who do not know the A B C of Indian politics, that I was in politics—in some cases—before they were born. Let them listen to me with patience and attention and let them understand that the future of India is safer in my hands than in the hands of those who parade their nationalism, day in and day out.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA CHOSE: I rise on a point of order, Sir. I would like to have your ruling as to whether the honourable member is entitled to speak to other members to listen to him and to follow him to get freedom or some such thing for India and, at the same time, depicting them to be their juniors ask them to pay their attentive attention to their senior members.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The honourable member may pass what remarks he likes and as many as possible, but I have your permission, Sir, to give my personal explanation. The whole point that I was trying to make was that if the Leader of the House had

listened to me, we would not have come to the present unhappy pass. He also took advantage of your ruling that no discussion would be allowed on the two statements and referred to the voting at my election as Mayor. The voting at these elections is by ballot. I myself do not know how many votes were cast in my favour by any particular group and yet the Leader of the House states, categorically, that I secured 25 Forward Bloc and 20 Muslim League votes. This part of his statement is a distinct violation of the sanctity of the ballot. The figures are questionable and the method adopted, to flourish them as authoritative, reprehensible.

He has also referred to a photograph in which I appeared with Mr. Bose, taken in his bedroom when I called upon him to enquire after his health on the day he was permitted to leave the prison on grounds of ill-health without any restrictions on his freedom to meet any one he liked. I was totally unaware that a photograph was being taken until I was dazzled by the flash at the time of the exposure. I felt myself to be almost an interloper in a family group consisting of Mr. Bose's mother, elder brother and one or two other members of the family.

(MR. I. D. JALAN wanted to rise on a point of order.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Coming to the Secondary Education Board Bill, I would like to repeat a Persian couplet which you will understand better than many friends here:

بهر رنگے که خواهی جامه می پوش - من اندازِ قدت را می شناسم

Translated it means: "Dress thyself up in any manner thou wilt (but remember) I know the measure of thy height." We know that the present Bill is the outcome of the mental effort not of the Hon'ble Minister for Education but of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, the destroyer of the two essays made in the past by his present Chief, the then Minister for Education I pity the Education Minister who, I am convinced, in his heart of hearts, realises that he is hatching an egg laid by another (uproar). I hope my Muslim brothers in the present Ministry will come out of such an undesirable state of affairs and will, for once, look at things in their true perspective. I have had occasion to refer to the dominating position occupied by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. If these gentlemen do not cower before him, if these gentlemen do not behave as the Hon'ble the Chief Minister did when, as Home Minister and Chief Minister he should have replied to the cut motion on the grant for General Administration, he sat cowering in his corner and allowed the Finance Minister to speak on

behalf of the Government.....(uproar). The gentlemen opposite, Sir, do not seem to understand what I am saying. My English is good enough and my argument correct, but if weak partisan brains refuse to understand me, I cannot help it. I am trying to give an injection of intellectual Tincture Digitalis to my Muslim brothers in the Cabinet to fortify their hearts to get out of the clutches of the master genius or at least to leave a small window of light and air open for the Mussalman in Bengal, who has suffered in the matter of primary, secondary and higher education for decades and who has had no look in into the affairs of the University, as and when he can to retrieve the position .....(Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose: Are you one of them?) Yes, I am and I have always been the sufferer. I challenge anybody in this House to question my statement. If the vindictive Hindu mind is not yet prepared to do justice to us, can we not appeal to the Hon'ble Minister not to injure us further? I know his powerful colleague in the Cabinet will not allow him to act independently, but I do beg of him, on my bended knees, not to hurt us more, not to injure us irretrievably for a long period. I am hopeful that whenever the elections come, whenever it is God's will to stop the war, we shall put this Bill right and retrieve the position.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am instructed by my Group to say that we shall oppose all retarding motions and shall support the motion for the Bill to go before a Select Committee at once. We are not in a position to pretend that we have mastered the Bill in the few days since we had it. These are busy times and we have not been able to meet and study it. I think that the most that any of us has been able to do is to cast his eyes hurriedly or rather one eye hurriedly over the Bill while the other eye was busy over something else. But we are prepared to do what we can to support it, as we were with the last Bill. We have no doubt that there are certain imperfections in it, but these imperfections can be dealt with by the Select Committee and by the House afterwards, and we hope that every Group in the House will join in a co-operative spirit to do the best that can be done for education. We ourselves offer our humble ability for that purpose. At first sight it seems as if the Bill is in the main a continuation of the Bill that we threw aside not long ago. That means, I hope, that not all the hard work many of us have done will be wasted. It means also, I hope, that some of those who went on crusade against the last Bill will go on crusade in favour of this Bill; or if they are not able to do that will stay quietly at home and do whatever they can to help it by refraining from excessive opposition. We have seen of late remarkable changes in political alignment in this province and in this House, and we trust we shall also see consequential remarkable changes in opinion and feeling in the sphere of education. Those who have recently

undergone the stimulating experience of conversion may now be able to put their great abilities behind a Bill which formerly they used against a Bill. These matters, however, may be left for the near present. The Select Committee can deal with the matter, and while the Select Committee is working on the Bill the House and the public can at leisure digest whatever is new in it. I as a member of the Select Committee, and specially because I am a member of the Select Committee, may wish this new Select Committee a less strenuous life and a less humiliating end than the last had.

In this Group we say what we said before, that any Bill that is not incompetently drafted must offer the promise of better things than we have at present. In any Bill drafted with ability we must find the opportunity of improving our present situation, and it should be our object to devote our abilities only to that. We have heard today much argument why the Bill is unsatisfactory. I do not think that we have heard much argument why the Bill should be circulated again for eliciting public opinion. If after the fierce light that has been thrown on secondary education for the last two or three years, after all that there is still any fresh public opinion about secondary education to be found anywhere, I think it will be public opinion that has been very quickly and suddenly arrived at. Surely if after all the work we the representatives of the public, have done in this House, knowing what the public feel, after all that work, after all the struggles and fighting for the last two years, we do not know what this province wants in the realm of secondary education, then we must be a very incompetent House of legislature and incompetent representatives of the people.

If we can get a good Board competent and devoted only to the welfare of education and not to some of the considerations that we have heard this morning, if we have a good Executive Committee, I am prepared to believe from what I have seen that the Executive Committee suggested is larger than it should be—if we can set up a good system of inspection of schools, if we can set up a good system of grants-in-aid—and I should like to see much more money allotted to that than the Bill allots—if we can do all this and if we can apply these advantages and benefits to all classes of secondary schools, then we in this Group feel that we shall have achieved an advance for the province, and indeed for the nation, of inestimable importance. In that feeling we support the immediate reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. As we shall soon have a Howrah Bridge for which we have waited so many generations, so there are many among us who are at least hopeful that before we die we shall see a good Secondary Education Act in Bengal and a competent and devoted authority working to bring our schools out of the confusion in which our secondary education has fallen.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I have stood up to speak for the circulation motion, still I must, to start with, frankly say that I am not in favour of the Bill being circulated again, and the reasons are quite obvious. As Mr. Wordsworth has put it, the question of Secondary Education Bill has been before us and the whole country for a long time. There has been a lot of agitation and public propaganda about it. Every one's mind is now ready and it is wellknown what our views are about secondary education. Sir, we all know that this Bill is the result of a compromise between different parts in the party now forming the Government. A compromise Bill can never be an ideal Bill and as such the Bill we have got cannot be expected to be an ideal one. But, Sir, still I must say that the Bill has been much below what we expected it to be. Glancing through the Bill I may say that it is a queer amalgam of three systems which developed in Europe in three periods. I mean, Sir, the Mediaeval period, Renaissance period and the Modern period or the Post-renaissance period. We know, Sir, that in Europe before the advent of renaissance there was only more or less religious education conducted and controlled by the missionaries. Bible was the chief book and the whole of Europe was just emerging out of the dark period. In this Bill we have got something like that. A committee is going to be started with a view to see that purely religious education is properly looked after. So we are bringing in the pre-renaissance period. I have spoken of education in vogue in Europe in the past. In India too before the days of Raja Ram Mohan Roy we had a similar system of religious education but we have passed that stage long ago. I hope we will never go back to the pre-Ram Mohan Roy days, although I find that even in this modern age we are going to have a system of education like that of religious education of olden days. There is in this Bill a curious mixture of pre-renaissance and the renaissance, that is, a mixture of religious and secular education. This is a thing which in our modern outlook, in our present-day ideals, it is impossible to accept. We would have been happy if it had been possible to abolish the religious system of education altogether.

Then, Sir, I come to the system of secular education. As Dr. Sanyal has said, when the last Secondary Education Bill was being discussed in this House many of the members stressed that in the present age only one system should prevail and that is the system of secular education. Religious education may be tolerated but Government should not encourage it as Governments in all advanced countries do not encourage it. Religious education should be the concern of private institutions and private bodies. Not to speak of the countries in Europe, even in Turkey which to many Muhammadans is an ideal State, religious education is not tolerated by the Government there. Therefore, Sir, I cannot understand why in this province, where the Muhammadans are in a majority, religious education should be given

so much importance. That is the reason why I think this Bill is much more reactionary and much more detrimental to the cause of education than the previous Bill. I hope the Select Committee will seriously consider this aspect of the question and see that the present proposal of stimulating the old system of religious or maktab education should be given a go-bye. That system may yet drag on a miserable existence, but a modern Government must neither encourage nor tolerate it. Then, Sir, we have got a large number of committees under the present Bill: there is, I understand, the Islamic Secondary Education Committee. I know also that there are in the Muslim community a large number of people who believe in the Madrasah system of education. Amongst the Hindus, however, there is not even one per cent. of people who believe in religious education. Therefore, the question of setting up a Hindu Secondary Education Committee is simply ridiculous. We the Hindus do not want to introduce the communal question in our system of education——

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Who authorises you to speak on behalf of the Hindus? You have never espoused the Hindu cause.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I can certainly speak on behalf of the Hindus and I say on their behalf that we do not want to introduce any communal system of education. I am a Hindu and I have every right to speak on behalf of the Hindus.

Coming to the subject of Scheduled Castes Secondary Education Committee and the Girls' Secondary Education Committee, I do not believe any good will result from the setting up of such Committees. On the other hand I believe in more money being given for girls' education and the education of the members of the Scheduled Castes. I do not mind even if Rs. 10 or 15 lakhs is given for the education of the Scheduled Castes. There is one Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Scheduled Castes' Education and there is also a Special Committee to look after the education of the Scheduled Castes. There is therefore no point in having separate committees for the secondary education of Scheduled Castes and also for the secondary education of girls. Moreover, Scheduled Castes' education and girls' education have also been given adequate representation on the Board as well as on the Executive Council. If this feature of setting up a number of committees is removed, the Bill as a whole can be simplified to a great extent and can be made acceptable to all.

Then, Sir, in the Bill the question of settling the principle and the policy has been left to the Executive Council to which I strongly object.

We are at the threshold of a new age. Every one believes that. Whatever may be the nature or the shape of the world after the world war, we know that a better world is coming. I am an optimist, I am a revolutionary, I believe we are gradually advancing and we are gradually progressing. Whatever may happen at present, the future is bright—a new dawn is coming to Bengal. We are at the threshold of a revolutionary period. The question of principle and policy on which secondary education is to be conducted ought not to have been left to the executive council to be decided upon, but should have been decided by those who represent the whole of Bengal with its hopes and aspirations and are the only competent body to speak about it. The principle to be adopted should have been left to this House and not left to the Secondary Education Committee. Sir, the question of communal representation has been raised by my friend Dr. Sanyal. I for myself do not care who sits there in the Board or in the Executive Council. I have faith in every Bengali, whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim, or anybody else. I may in passing refer to a similar instance in England during the time of George III. He was not an Englishman and did not know English, but still when there was a fight going on between the English and the Germans, the English people did not hesitate to stand by the side of George III, because they did not care who sat on the throne, they only cared for the constitution of the country which is their right. It did not matter to them who sat on the throne then provided he acted in a constitutional way; it does not matter to them even now. The people of our country also know how to deal with them as the English people dealt with Charles I. It matters little who is there on the Board—how many Muhammadans, Christians and Hindus are there in the Executive Council. What really matters is the proper constitution of the Board. We must build our secondary education on a solid and sound basis and the whole system should be guided and controlled according to rules and regulations laid down. It matters not who sits on the Board. We must believe one another and not wrangle as to how many seats the Hindus have or the Muslims have got. If we cannot work in a spirit of brotherhood even at this critical juncture, our future is dark. I do not see any reason why the Bill should be circulated. I would request the Select Committee to consider more carefully the retrograde steps that are in the Bill, to eliminate them and bring forth before the House as soon as possible a Bill free from all retrograde measures and consistent with the age.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on this Bill which is a matter of vital concern to us, the members of the Scheduled Castes. Sir, the Bill proposes the constitution of a Board consisting of 60 members, of whom our share, including an official, is only 7. I submit, Sir, this

number is quite inadequate. Our number should be increased to 10, if not more. You will, find, Sir, from the provision in the Bill that no representation has been given to us as representing the Bengal Legislative Council nor as members of the Academic Council of the Dacca University. And, Sir, in the case of nominated members although there was provision for two members of our community being on the Board under the old Bill, only 1 has been provided in the present Bill. I submit this is quite inadequate. You will also find, Sir, that from the Bengal Legislative Assembly only one Scheduled Caste representative has been taken. I submit that out of a number of 31 Schedule Caste members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly the provision for only 1 representative is quite insufficient, and that our number should be increased to at least 3, if not more.

You will also find, Sir, in the Executive Council, out of 22 members our representation is only one. We submit this is quite unfair. You will also find in the composition of the Executive Council that while most of the ex-officio members of the Board have been taken in it, the Special Officer for the Scheduled Castes' Education has been left out from the Executive Council. We submit, Sir, it is quite unfair. You have taken here besides the Vice-Chancellors and the Director of Public Instruction (ex-officio), the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muslim Education, but you have not taken the Special Officer for Scheduled Castes' Education We submit that Government are quite unfair in not including him although they have included other ex-officio members who are also members of the Board. You will also find a curious fact that in the Board of Examiners as well as in the Finance Committee and Recognition and Grants Committee, our share is nil. No representation has been given to the members of the Scheduled Castes in all these important committees. The Board, in fact, will work through all these committees and by excluding us from these committees we are practically excluded from the benefit of the Bill.

Another fact I want to bring to your notice in this connection. This is about the appointment of the President of the Board. You will find that the President is to be appointed from a panel of three names to be submitted by a Selection Committee, and the Selection Committee consists of the Minister in charge of Education, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dacca and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission. But you will not find there any one representing the Scheduled Castes and we doubt very much that in the panel of three names, members of the Scheduled Castes will be excluded as they have been excluded elsewhere. We submit, Sir, this is quite unfair on the part of the Government not to make proper representation for the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, we are 31 members here but what we are getting from the Government is very small. The representation which has been given to us is nothing. We are only given crumbs here and there, but so far as education is concerned and also in other spheres our representation is very little. In the Communal Ratio Recruitment Rules you will find that 15 per cent. of the services has been reserved for the members of the Scheduled Castes, but how many of us are taken actually in the services? So also is the case in other spheres. Therefore, I appeal to all the Scheduled Caste members to be united on this single issue, that is, on education and make it a common cause; for, upon the secondary education our welfare entirely depends. We should unite on this issue; we should put pressure upon the Government to give us proper representation in all spheres of education now that the Secondary Education Board is going to be established.

Then there are other suggestions about the provision in the Bill. The first is about the financial assistance to be given by the Government to the Board. In the Bill it is proposed that Rs. 50 lakhs will ultimately be given for the secondary education of this province. I submit, Sir, this is quite insufficient. The right course for the Board will be to contribute to each affiliated school a sum equal to the total fee income of such school subject to a maximum and it is by this way that we can improve the position of our secondary schools.

Then, again, I submit that power should be given to the Board for assuming complete control and financial responsibility for any particular school or schools in a particular area for the purpose of meeting a sudden crisis or emergency. This power is necessary in view of the present crisis as almost all the secondary schools are now running at a great risk. Some of them have closed and others are running in some way or other, and it is proper for the Government to assume the financial charge of all these schools now that the emergency has arisen. So, power should be given to the Board in the Bill itself to assume charge of those schools which are in fiancial difficulties.

With these words, Sir, I thank you again for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Secondary Education Bill.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI. সহকারী সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই বিল সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে এই—এই বিল এমন সময়েতে আমাদের সামনে এসেছে যে যখন বিবেচনা করবার কম সময় পাওয়া গেছে। পাঁচ দিনের মধ্যে যখন এই Assemblyর ছুটি ছিল, সেই সময়েতে এটা নিয়ে আসা এবং পাঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়। ফলে এই হয়েছে যে, আমার মনে হয় পরিষদে মেম্বারদের মধ্যে শতকরা ৬০ জন কিম্বা তারও বেশী thoroughly এই বিলটা পড়েছেন কিনা সন্দেহ। যদি তাদের জিজ্ঞাসা করা যায়, তবে তারাও তাই বলবেন। অবশ্য ডাঃ

সান্যাল ও ডাঃ ব্যানার্জি, এই ধরণের কয়েকজন মেম্বর ছাড়া এবং আরও দু চার জন মেম্বার ছাড়া এই বিল thoroughly অধিকাংশ মেম্বাররা পড়েছেন কিনা, আমার যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে, কাজেই এই fag end of sessionএ এই ধরণের একটা বিল আনা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে ভাল হয় নি। অন্ততঃ এই বিলটা সম্বন্ধে অনেক আগেই নোটিশ দেওয়া উচিত ছিল।

আমার দ্বিতীয় কথা হচ্ছে এই যে, ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষা দেওয়া Secondary Educationর ভিতর আসা উচিত নয়। হিন্দুরা মাথায় টিকি রাখবে, কি মুসলমানরা গালেতে দাড়ি রাখবে, হিন্দুরা কাছা দেবে কিম্বা মুসলমানরা কাছা দেবে না, হিন্দুরা টুপি পড়বে বা মুসলমানরা ফেজ পড়বে, এ বিষয়ে শিক্ষা দেওয়া এই বিংশ শতাব্দীতে আমি অন্যায় বলে মনে করি। এবং কোন ব্যক্তি পশ্চিম দিকে তাকিয়ে প্রার্থনা করবে, আর কোন ব্যক্তি পূব দিকে দাঁড়িয়ে "জবা কুসুম সঙ্কাশং" বলবে, এই শিক্ষা নীতি যদি মেনে নিতে হয়, তাহলে অতীত কালে ফিরে যেতে হয়, যখন পৃথিবী নানা পর্ব্বত ও নদীতে পরিপূর্ণ থাকার দরুণ পারাপার ও যাতায়াত করা কঠিন ছিল। তখন নানা ধরণের নানা ধর্ম্ম গজিয়ে ছিল, সে আরব দেশই হোক, আর ভারতবর্ষ হোক কিম্বা জেরুজিলাম হোক। তারপর থেকে বহু শত বৎসর চলে গেছে। এখন প্রত্যেক ধর্ম্মের যা আসল জিনিষ, সেই জিনিষটা নিতে হবে। সেটা হচ্ছে universal morals তার উপর basis করে মানুষের দাঁড়ান উচিত। আমি হিন্দু, আর কেউ বলবে আমি মুসলমান, আর এক জন বলবে আমি বৌদ্ধ, কেউ বলবে আমি নমঃশূদ্র, আর একজন বলবে আমি সাঁওতাল, ভীল, কোল ইত্যাদি, এই ধরণের বিভিন্ন মত যদি আসে, তাহলে হিন্দুস্থানের ভিতর, ভারতবর্ষের ভিতর (হিন্দুস্থান নাম যদি উঠে যায়, আমার তাতে আপত্তি নেই), দেশের ভিতর যে বহু geographical পাকিস্থান হবে তা নয়, বহু ধর্ম্মসম্বন্ধীয় পাকিস্থান আরম্ভ হবে। এই জিনিষটা আমাদের পরিত্যাগ করা উচিত। কাজেই আজ পৃথিবীর সমস্ত সভ্য দেশে যে ধরণের শিক্ষা হচ্ছে, আজকে বিংশ শতাব্দীর ভারতবর্ষে—আমরা একটা সভ্য দেশ বলেই মনে করি, নিজেদের এই দেশকে—আমাদের এটা করা উচিত যে আমাদের স্কুলে কোন রকম ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষা দেওয়া হবে না। তবে নৈতিক শিক্ষার যথেষ্ট scope থাকতে পারে। আর যদি ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা দেওয়াই হয়, আর যদি সেই জন্য নানা রকম কমিটী থাকে, Islamic Education Committee, Hindu Education Committee থাকে এবং অন্যান্য কমিটি থাকে, তাহলে আমি বলব Aborigines, বাংলাদেশের আদিম অধিবাসীর জন্য কেন কমিটী থাকবে না? এটা কি ঠিক, যেহেতু এখানে অনেক মুসলমান সদস্য উপস্থিত আছেন, যেহেতু এখানে ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি, হিন্দুদের champion উপস্থিত আছেন, যেহেতু রায় সাহেব অনুকূলচন্দ্র দাস, ঐ Scheduled Caste champion এখানে উপস্থিত আছেন, সেই হেতু তাদের কমিটী হবে; আর সাঁওতাল, ভীল, বা কোলদের কোন প্রতিনিধি এখানে নেই, সেই হেতু তাদের কোন কমিটী হবে না? যদি আমরা সত্যই justice করতে চাই, তাহলে এদেরও একটা কমিটী হওয়া উচিত বলে আমি মনে করি। যদি আমরা গোলে হরিবোল দিতে না চাই, যদি আমরা মনে না করি এই যে কয়েকটা শ্রেণী এখানে এসেছে, যারা হিন্দু ও মুসলমান, Anglo-Indian

ও European দল এবং Scheduled Caste, spoils এদের মধ্যে ভাগ হয়ে যাক, কে কি পাবে না পাবে সেটা এদের মধ্যেই ঠিক হয়ে যাক, এটাই যদি আমাদের মতলব না হয়, তাহলে আমি মাননীয় Education Ministerকে বলব আদিম অধিবাসী, যারা এই বাংলা দেশে, তাদেরও একটা কমিটী হওয়া উচিত। তাদের শিক্ষা কে দেখবে? আজ পর্য্যন্ত University foundation থেকে আরম্ভ করে, বাংলাদেশে সাঁওতাল, কোল, ভীল বা লোধা, এদের শিক্ষা ব্যাপারে য়ুনির্ভাসিটী বা গভর্ণমেণ্ট কতদূর অগ্রসর হয়েছেন? যদি figure দেখা যায়, তাহলে দেখতে পাওয়া যাবে যে tribal religion যারা, তাদের মধ্যে পাঁচ থেকে দশ বছরের ছেলেমেয়ে ৭৪,৮৪৪ জন রয়েছে তার মধ্যে লেখাপড়া শিখেছে মাত্র ২৬২ জন। দশ থেকে পনের বৎসর যাদের বয়স তাদের সংখ্যা, ৬১,৬৪১ জন, লেখাপড়া (literacy যাকে বলে) শিখেছে, মাত্র ২৭৫ জন এবং পনেরো হইতে ষোল যারা তাদের সংখ্যা ৪৫,৬৫৩, তার মধ্যে literate ৪৬৪ জন। আর বিশ থেকে আরও বেশী বয়স যাদের তাদের সংখ্যা ২৪৬,৯০৪ আর লেখাপড়া জানে ২৯৪ জন। আর ইংরেজী শিখেছে ১৩৮ জন। এই যে লেখাপড়া, শিক্ষার অভাব এদের মধ্যে, এমন এবং অতীত কালে তাদের জন্য কেউ চেষ্টা করেন নি—কি হিন্দু কি মুসলমান কিম্বা Anglo Indian বা European কিম্বা Scheduled Caste—কেউ এদের খোঁজ নেন নি। অবশ্য এ বিষয়ে হয়ত বেশী দায়ী হিন্দুরা—হয়তঃ কেন, নিশ্চয়ই। কারণ শিক্ষার ভার ও দায়িত্ব তাদের উপরই বেশী ছিল। কিন্তু তারা কোন কাজ করেন নি। কাজেই একথা আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাছে, বিশেষ করে, জোরের সহিত বলব যে যদি সমস্ত communityর শিক্ষার ভার তাদের প্রতিনিধির উপর ন্যস্ত করতে চান, তাহলে এই যে tribal বা primitive caste, তাদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার জন্য তাদের প্রতিনিধি নিয়ে একটা কমিটী করুণ। অবশ্য আমি আগেই বলেছি —non-sectarian বা secular education দেওয়া উচিত; religious education দেওয়া উচিত নয়। কিন্তু যদি অন্য premisesর উপর start করেন, তাহলে tribal casteর জন্য একটা কমিটী করা উচিত। এই সঙ্গে আর একটা কমিটীর কথা বলব (যখন কমিটীর কথাই হচ্ছে, তখন এই কমিটীর কথা বলতে হচ্ছে)। সে হচ্ছে Adult Secondary Education Committee একটা করা উচিত। কারণ আমাদের ছেলেমেয়েদের যেমন শিক্ষা দেওয়া উচিত, তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে প্রাপ্তবয়স্করা যাতে secondary education পায় তার চেষ্টা করা উচিত। সেটা হিন্দু হোক, মুসলমান হোক বা Scheduled Caste হোক বা Tribal Caste হোক, তাদের জন্য করা উচিত। এর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে হিন্দুদের ভিতর backward caste Hinduদেরও একটা Secondary Education Committee করা উচিত। আপনারা যদি কমিটী করতেই চান, তাহলে এই সমস্ত কমিটী থেকে আপনারা রেহাই পেতে পারেন না। কারণ আমি মনে করি, যে কারণে আমরা বিভিন্ন শ্রেণীর জন্য বিভিন্ন কমিটী করতে চাই, সেই কারণেতে Caste Hinduর মধ্যে যারা পিছিয়ে রয়েছে, যারা backward in education রয়েছে, যাদের Assemblyতে স্থান নেই, চাকরিতে স্থান নেই, এই রকম যাদের Caste Hindu বলে গণ্ডার এণ্ডা দিয়ে চলে যাচ্ছে, তাদের জন্য একটা Education Committee হওয়া

উচিত। আমার বন্ধু মালেক সাহেব বলেছেন কত রকমের Caste Hindu আছে। এবং তাতে দেখা যাবে প্রায় এক কোটি লোক সেই Caste Hinduদের মধ্যে রয়েছে, যারা এখনও পিছিয়ে পড়ে আছে, যাদের সম্বন্ধে দেখবার বলবার লোক নেই। তাই আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলছি কোন কমিটী করা উচিত নয় এবং education সমস্ত রকমে secular হওয়া উচিত। তবে যে সমস্ত Community বা Caste পিছনে পড়ে আছে, তাদের টেনে উঠান উচিত। তার পর যদি কমিটীই করতে চান, তাহলে এতগুলি কমিটী করা উচিত। আর যদি এখন না করেন, দশ বছর পরে তা করতে হবে এ বিষয়ে নিশ্চিন্ত থাক্‌বেন।

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after long years this Secondary Education Bill is before the House and we are glad that some improvement has been made in this Bill to what we found in the previous Bill. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition benches.) Sir, my friends in the Opposition may say that no improvement has been made and that, on the other hand, great injustice has been done in this Bill, but I can say this much that great improvement has been made in this Bill. Though it is not up to the mark as yet, still we cannot deny that great improvement has been done. In this connection, I may say what innovations have been made in this Bill. In the first place, as between the two Bills, the control has been transferred practically to the Board, the definition has been made wider because technical, agricultural and other kinds of education have all been brought under the purview of this Bill. The number of members of the Board has been increased from 48 to 60 in this Bill, though no justice has been done to our community, and the Board has been given great power in the matter of appointment of its officers and staff. A new innovation has been made, namely, that side by side with Islamic Board there is provision for a Hindu Board which may be called a caste Hindu Board. My friend, Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti, said that some board should be created including the tribal people and including the backward communities. I do not know whether my friend denies that he does not belong to the caste Hindu community, but this much I may say that the Board as suggested in the Bill is meant only for the caste Hindus. The Hindu Board consists of the Head of the Sanskrit Department of the University. There is no place for us there, and the Scheduled Caste people are legally debarred.

As regards the Principal of the Sanskrit College, our position is the same.

Then, we find "one Principal of an approved *tol* to be selected in the prescribed manner by the Principals of approved *tols*". We have nothing to do with *tols*. What could we do with *tols*? We could only beat the *dhol*—the drum. Speaking of my own district, there is a *tol* in the Rangpur town in which even now the Scheduled Caste students are not admitted. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Muslim

League Benches.) Some means or other is found to see that the Scheduled Caste students may not enter the spacious precincts of the honourable pandits of that *tol*. My friend Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti has got no grievance because he is satisfied with the Secondary Education Board even though the Scheduled Castes are not properly represented on it. From this we sometimes begin to doubt whether we are Hindus or Muslims. The Muslims do not admit us as Muslims. Our caste Hindu friends won't admit us as Hindus. Our position is that of Trisanghu neither in heaven nor on earth but somewhere in the middle. We are also hanging like him in the middle. To the Scheduled Castes justice has not been done. There is, however, still time to improve the position in the Select Committee and I venture to hope that the Hon'ble Minister in his mature age and ripe wisdom will show great sympathy for these unhappy people and try to do something to improve their condition. He has been in the public life of Bengal for a long time and knows the condition of the backward people in the province and specially of the Scheduled Castes in particular.

In the old Bill, out of 48 members there were five seats given to Scheduled Castes but now though the number has been increased from 48 to 60, our fate is almost the same. The number has been increased from 5 to 6 only.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What about the Special Officer?

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: There are two Special Officers of which one is to be from Scheduled Castes Education Department. In the old Bill there were 14 members in the Executive Council and now in the new Bill there are 22 members. Still, our fate remains the same সবে ধন নীলমনি, viz., only one member.

We do not grumble about the Islamic Board. We do not grumble about the Hindu Board or other Boards. Let there be as many Boards as Mr. Nikunja Behari Maiti likes. We have no objection to that. Our objection is only this that justice has not been meted out to us, the Scheduled Caste people. Under the Poona Pact, this Government and the Government of India are bound to make some concession and a special concession for the downtrodden millions and millions of our people. We stand on our own right. We do not want any favour. We want that justice be done to the millions of our people. Justice has been denied to us up till now. It is time, it is high time, that justice is done to us, though late.

As regards experts, may I submit that in the old Bill it was made out that experts had not got their places on the Board. Now that has been cured. We have got many experts in the Board or in the Executive Council. But what is to be done about the Scheduled Castes.

We have no experts. We have got no specially qualified people. Though there are a few serving in that department, still they cannot be called experts but we, the Scheduled Caste people, want that our representatives—we do not care for the experts—should be those who can think for the community, who can act on behalf of and in the interests of the community and who have got the strongest commonsense. We want that sort of people. We do not want experts. We have got no experts.

I do not want to speak at length but our difficulty is not being appreciated by the members or the public. We are looking to-day for support but we get little or scanty support. Scanty justice is being done to us.

About the number of Scheduled Castes, I am not going to speak much. My friend Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra Das has suggested that it should be raised to 10. I do not care about the number. If there is even only one man with the greatest commonsense and with the greatest sympathy that one man is sufficient. That is my view. I do not think that number is everything in this world. We cannot rely on Muslims, we cannot rely on Caste Hindus to raise the downtrodden millions. That is our fate. I want to finish my speech by quoting two couplets from the greatest poet of the time Rabindranath Tagore. These will amplify everything:—

মানুষের অধিকারে, বঞ্চিত করেছ যারে
সম্মুখে দাঁড়ায়ে রেখে তবু কোলে দাও নাই স্থান
অপমানে হ'তে হবে তাহাদের সবার সমান।
যারে তুমি নীচে ফেলো সে তোমারে বাঁধিবে যে নীচে
পশ্চাতে রেখেছো যারে সে তোমারে পশ্চাতে টানিছে,
অজ্ঞানের অন্ধকারে আড়ালে ঢাকিছ যারে
তোমার মঙ্গল ঢাকি গড়িছে সে ঘোর ব্যবধান,
অপমানে হ'তে হবে তাহাদের সবার সমান॥

This is the law of gravitation. The whole universe is moving round this law. If you keep down one section of the community then you will also go down yourself. The law of grvitation must do it.

(The member having reached the time limit, resumed his seat.)

SRIJUT NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA : Deputy Speaker, Sir, আমি এই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে মাত্র দুই চারটী কথা বল্‌ছি। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিনিধি, ফজলার রহমান সাহেব কয়েকটী মূল্যবান তথ্য আবিষ্কার করেছেন—তার মধ্যে একটী তথ্য হচ্ছে এই যে, এই বিলের রচয়িতা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় নন, অন্য ব্যক্তি। যাক্, সেই তথ্য নিয়ে, সেই গূঢ় তথ্য সম্বন্ধে কোন আলোচনা না করে, তিনি যে একটী কথা বলেছেন যে, শিক্ষার মধ্যে জন-সংখ্যা অনুপাতে প্রতিনিধি হওয়া প্রয়োজন, আমি তার কথা আংশিকভাবে একটু সামান্য যোগ দিয়ে স্বীকার করে নিতে রাজী আছি। সেটা

হচ্ছে, শিক্ষায়তনে গমনকারী যারা, তাদের সংখ্যা অনুপাতে প্রতিনিধি প্রেরণ করা হোক, কারণ যেখানে শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠানের কথা হয় সেখানে যদি আমাদের সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিনিধি পাঠানোর সিদ্ধান্ত হয়ে থাকে, তবে যে সম্প্রদায়ের লোক এই শিক্ষাব্রতে ব্রতী, যারা শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠান বা বিদ্যালয়ে গমন করে, সেই বিদ্যালয় গমনকারীদের সংখ্যা অনুপাতে শিক্ষা-ব্রতীদের সংখ্যা অনুপাতে প্রতিনিধি নির্দ্ধারণ করা সঙ্গত এবং আমার বিশ্বাস ফজলার রহমান সাহেব সেটা স্বীকার করে নেবেন। এখন কথা হচ্ছে এই যে আমি হিন্দুর পক্ষ থেকে বলছি যে আমি হিন্দু বা মুসলমান বা কোন সম্প্রদায় হিসাবে এই representation চাহি না কিন্তু যদি হিন্দু বা মুসলমান হিসাবে representation দেওয়াই হয় তাহলে ন্যায় ও বৈধতার দিক দিয়ে সমস্ত সমস্যা সমাধান করা উচিত। হিন্দু বাঙ্গালী গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিরুদ্ধতা এবং নানা প্রকার ভ্রূকুটি সত্ত্বেও এবং নানা প্রকার অভাব অভিযোগ, বাধার ভিতর দিয়ে বাংলার ১,৫০০ স্কুলের মধ্যে অন্ততঃ ১,৩০০ স্কুল স্থাপন করেছে এবং কেহ কেহ বলবেন Caste Hinduরা স্থাপন করেছেন। হ্যাঁ Caste Hinduরাই স্থাপন করেছেন কিন্তু তারা Scheduled Casteর যে কোন sectionএর জন্য তাদের দুয়ার উন্মুক্ত রেখেছেন। যদি আপনারা বাংলার বিভিন্ন স্কুলের খবর নেন, তাহলে দেখবেন যে free-studentship, half-free studentship সম্পর্কে যে ব্যবস্থা আছে, তাতে Caste Hindu যে পরিমাণ পেয়েছে, তার অনুপাতে Scheduled Caste এবং অন্যান্য শ্রেণীর ছেলেরা বেশী পেয়েছে—শতকরা ৯০টা। তারপর আমার বন্ধুবর ক্ষেত্রনাথ সিংহ মহাশয় বলেছেন যে, টোলে Scheduled Caste ছেলেদের নেওয়া হয় না। আমি জানি না এইরূপ হতভাগ্য টোল আছে কিনা বাংলায়। কিন্তু আমি জানি, আমাদের গ্রামের টোলে যিনি অধ্যাপক, তিনি বর্ণাশ্রম স্বরাজ্য সঙ্ঘের সভাপতি—ঐ অঞ্চলের। তিনি অনেক বার আমাকে এক ঘরে করবার জন্য চেষ্টা করেছেন এবং দুই একবার ঘোল খাওয়ানেরও চেষ্টা করেছেন কিন্তু প্রত্যেক বারেই, আমাকে ঘোল খাওয়াতে যেয়ে তিনি নিজেই ঘোল খেয়েছেন কিন্তু তিনি পর্য্যন্ত তার টোলে নমঃশূদ্র এবং অন্যান্য শ্রেণীর ছাত্র বিনা দ্বিধায় গ্রহণ করছেন। কাজেই এতবড় গোঁড়া পণ্ডিত যখন এই কার্য্য করছেন এবং এই কলকাতারও আমি ২।১ জন টোলের পণ্ডিতের সহিত পরিচিত। আমি জানি তারা প্রত্যেকেই সর্ব্বশ্রেণীর হিন্দুকে গ্রহণ করেন। এই অবস্থায় যদি এই রকম হতভাগ্য বা দুর্ভাগ্য কোন টোল থাকে যারা এখনও কুসংস্কারের অন্ধকূপের মধ্যে নিমজ্জিত আছে তারা বাস্তবিকই দয়ার পাত্র। এখন দ্বিতীয় কথা হচ্ছে এই, আমাদের আবদার রহমান সাহেবের সম্বন্ধে (noise)। আবদার রহমান সিদ্দিকী সাহেব অনেক কথাই বলেছেন। এখন আবদার রহমান সিদ্দিকী সাহেব চিরদিনই এই Assemblyতে আবদার করে থাকেন এবং তার আবদার আমরা অত্যন্ত কৌতূহলের সঙ্গে সব সময় শ্রবণ করে থাকি। এবং এই Assemblyতে তিনি একটা বিষয়ে উৎকর্ষ দেখান, সেটা হচ্ছে গালাগালির বিষয়ে। কিন্তু আজ একটা নূতন আবিষ্কার হয়েছে। আমরা জানি মানুষ নেতা খুঁজে বের করে। কিন্তু হঠাৎ আজ Assemblyর ভাগ্যে দেখা গেল তিনি বলছেন, "যদি আমাকে নেতা বানীয়ে আমার হাতে ক্ষমতা দেও, তাহলে সব সমস্যা ঠিক হয়ে যাবে।" এমন শিশুসুলভ দাবী তিনি যে করতে পারেন তা আমরা আজই জানতে পারলাম।

তার পর ডাঃ নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল মহাশয় যে কথা বলেছেন কংগ্রেসের পক্ষ থেকে তারা সকল সম্প্রদায়ের উপর সুবিচার চান এবং সে হিসেবে হিন্দু সম্প্রদায়ের অন্তর্গত Scheduled Casteএর উপর যে অবিচার করা হচ্ছে, সেটার দিকে তিনি যে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছেন, সেইজন্য তিনি আমাদের ধন্যবাদের পাত্র। কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে হঠাৎ "একি শুনি ময়রার মুখে আজি রক্ষরাজ"। আমাদের Comrade সুরেশচন্দ্র ব্যানার্জি তিনিও আজ সহসা হিন্দু হয়েছেন। এটা মস্ত বড় একটা আবিষ্কার হল—যারা শিক্ষা দেয় ধর্ম্ম মিথ্যা সংস্কার মিথ্যা, এগুলি অতীতের পাপ, জঞ্জাল—"সহসা হেরিনু আজ প্রভাতে" তিনি হিন্দু হয়ে হিন্দুর পক্ষে কথা বল্‌ছেন। কিন্তু আমি জানি এই প্রকার অনেকেই হিন্দু হন, সময় ও অবস্থা বিশেষে। সব সময় তারা বলেন আমরা হিন্দু নই কিন্তু মাঝে মাঝে তারা হিন্দু হন, হিন্দুর ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতির সর্ব্বনাশ করবার জন্য। সেই সকল এই মাঝে মাঝে হিন্দু হওয়া লোকের মুখে এবং বিশেষ করে আজ তাদের বক্তৃতার মধ্যে সেই হিন্দুত্বের উৎকট বিকাশ দেখে আমরা আশ্বস্ত হব, কি আতঙ্কিত হব, বুঝতে পারছিনা। তিনি বলেছেন, ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতিমূলক শিক্ষা মুসলমানরা চায়, তারা নিক্ কিন্তু, হিন্দুরা নেবে কেন? এতে তার ভিতরের কথাই ফুটে উঠেছে। অর্থাৎ মুসলমানদের অধার্ম্মিক ও সভ্যতা বিচ্যুত করতে পারবেন্ না, এখন হিন্দুরা আছে, দেখা যাক সেটা তাদের করা যায় কিনা তাদের comrade করা যায় কিনা। কাজেই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতির উপর ভিত্তি করে শিক্ষালাভ বিষয়ে হিন্দুদের পক্ষেই তার যত আপত্তি। কিন্তু তাকে জানিয়ে দিতে চাই যে বিংশ শতাব্দীর তাদের যারা গুরু, সেই পাশ্চাত্য দেশেও আজ পর্য্যন্ত Bible অবলম্বন করে, ইংলণ্ড, আমেরিকা, প্রভৃতি সমস্ত দেশের সমস্ত বিদ্যালয়ে ও বিশ্ব-বিদ্যালয়ে শিক্ষা দেওয়া হচ্ছে। তিনি হয়ত এটা খোঁজ রাখা প্রয়োজন মনে করেন নি। তারা আদর্শ মনে করেন আজ রাশিয়াকে—যে রাশিয়া জগতের মধ্যে সভ্যতায় সব চেয়ে পশ্চাৎপদ, যেখানে এখনও জনসাধারণ বর্ব্বরতার মধ্যে বিদ্যমান। তাই আদর্শ অনুকরণ করা যারা জীবনের মধ্যে ধ্রুব সত্য মনে করেন, তাদের পক্ষে এ কথা বলায় বিন্দুমাত্র আশ্চর্য্য নেই। এখন কথা হচ্ছে, মানুষের শিক্ষা এবং আদর্শ তখনই ফুটে ওঠে যখন সেই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতির মধ্য দিয়ে তার সাধনার বস্তু দ্বিজত্ব বা দেবত্ব ফুটে ওঠে। এবং এখানেই মাইতি মহাশয় ভয়ানক আতঙ্কিত হয়ে উঠেছেন যে, কি হবে রে বাপ রে বাপ! কারণ এই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতিমূলক শিক্ষা হলে আমরা কত পিছনে চলে যাব। কিন্তু জিজ্ঞাসা করি, এই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতিবিহীন শিক্ষা এনে ছিল কে? এনেছিল, আমাদের খৃষ্টান শাসকেরা। কেন এনেছিল? তারা জানত, এই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতি থেকে যদি দেশবাসীকে আলাদা রাখ্‌তে পারেন, তবে এই জাতির মেরুদণ্ড কখনও শক্ত হবে না এবং চিরদিনই তাহাদিগকে পায়ের নীচে রাখ্‌তে পারবেন। এবং আজ পর্য্যন্ত গোলামের দল প্রভুদের দেওয়া শৃঙ্খলকে অলঙ্কার মনে করে আদর করে দেশের এই পাশ্চাত্যভাবে ভাবিত গোলামের দল, পাশ্চাত্য দেশের দুষ্ট রাজনৈতিক বুদ্ধি প্রণোদিত এই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতিবিহীন শিক্ষাকে শিক্ষার আদর্শ বলে মনে করে আনন্দে নৃত্য করছেন। (voice সাধু, সাধু!) কাজেই আজ যদি প্রকৃতই জাতিকে জাগতে হয় (এই যিনি সাধু সাধু বলছেন, তিনিও মাঝে মাঝে হিন্দু হন, আমি জানি)—তাই আজ প্রকৃতই যদি জাতিকে মনুষ্যত্বের

basisএ দাঁড়াতে হয়, প্রকৃত স্বাধীনতা জাতিকে অর্জন করতে হয়, তাহলে আমাদিগকে ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতির উপর ভিত্তি করে এই শিক্ষা প্রদান করতে হবে। এবং সেই ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কৃতি বিসর্জন দিয়ে সমাজ এবং জাতির কতখানি কি লাভ হইতে পারে, তাহা আমার বুদ্ধির অগম্য। হিন্দুর ধর্ম্ম থাকবে না, সংস্কার থাকবে না অথচ হিন্দু থাকবে এই যুক্তি এই বিংশ শতাব্দীর ১৯৪২ খৃষ্টাব্দে Assemblyর memberরা বলতে পারেন, সেইটাই সব চেয়ে আশ্চর্য্য মনে হচ্ছে।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, শ্রদ্ধেয় খাঁ বাহাদুর মৌ: আব্দুল করিম আজ Bengal Secondary Education Billটী Select Committeeতে পাঠানর জন্য ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে যে প্রস্তাব এনেছেন আমি তা সমর্থন করি।

স্যার! এই প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে কয়েকটী কথা আমি বল্‌তে চাই। এই বিলটীর ইতিহাস অতি বড় বিস্তৃত ও দুঃখজনক। এই বিলের প্রতি ভূতপূর্ব্ব গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হইতে আমরা কোন প্রকার সহানুভূতি পাই নাই। ইং ১৯৪০ সালে এই বিলটীর সিলেক্ট কমিটীর রিপোর্ট বিগত আগষ্ট মাসের ব্যবস্থাপক পরিষদে উপস্থিত করা হয়। পরে কিছু দিন চল্‌বার পর জানি না কোন অজ্ঞাত কারণে ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিসভা এবং ভূতপূর্ব্ব কোয়ালিশন পার্টির বিশিষ্ট সভ্যগণ এই পরিষদ হইতে বিলটীর কতক গৃহীত হওয়ার পরে এই বিলটী পরিষদে পরিচালনা বন্ধ করিয়া দেন। তার পরে স্যার, বাংলা দেশের প্রতি গ্রামে গ্রামে এই বিলটীর জন্য তুমুল আন্দোলন উপস্থিত হয় এবং বলিতে কি যে বাংলা সরকার যে কটী বিল এই পরিষদে উপস্থিত করাইয়া পাশ করাইয়াছেন তন্মধ্যে আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস এই বিলটী অত্যন্ত জনপ্রিয়। বাংলার প্রধান মন্ত্রী ও অন্যান্য মন্ত্রিগণ বাংলার বিভিন্ন স্থানে যখন ভ্রমণে বাহির হইয়াছিলেন প্রত্যেক স্থানে এই Secondary Education Billএর কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করিয়াছে, তাঁহারাও এই বিলটী পাশ হইবে বলিয়া জনগণকে আশ্বস্ত করিয়াছিলেন। স্যার, আজ এই বিলটী Select Committeeতে না দিয়া পরিষদে পাশ করাই উচিত ছিল। নানা প্রকার অসুবিধার দরুণ, Select Committeeতে পাঠাইবার প্রস্তাব মন্ত্রীমহাশয় উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন। আমি তাঁহার প্রস্তাব অনুমোদন করিতেছি। সরকারি প্রস্তাবে দেখা যায় যে এই Select Committeeর রিপোর্ট দাখিল করার তারিখ হইতেছে ১৯৪২ সালের ৩১শে জুলাই। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি এত লম্বা সময় না দিয়া সেই সময়টাকে কমাইয়া ১৯৪২ সালের ৩০শে জুনের ভিতরে যাহাতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে সিলেক্ট কমিটীর রিপোর্ট দাখিল হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

স্যার! এই বিলের আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে official কংগ্রেস সভ্য ডা: নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল যে বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন তাহার প্রথম ভাগ অবশ্য বিবেচনার বিষয়। তিনি তাঁহার বক্তৃতার ভিতরে যে নগ্ন সম্প্রদায়িক ভাব প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন আমি তাহার কোন প্রতিবাদ করিয়া তাঁহাকে মর্য্যাদা দিতে চাই না। আমি আজ এই মাত্র বলিব যে বাংলাদেশ নূতন মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন করিয়া প্রোগ্রেসিভ পার্টির নেতৃত্বাধীনে আজ যখন নূতন বাংলা তৈয়ার করিতে

অগ্রসর হইয়াছে সেই সময় ডাঃ সান্যালের মত অফিসিয়াল কংগ্রেসের একজন প্রতিপত্তিশালী মেম্বর দেশের একজন শিক্ষিত সম্ভ্রান্ত প্রভাবান্বিত নেতা হিসাবে আজ পরিষদে এই রকম বক্তৃতা করা উচিত হয় নাই। তাঁহার চিন্তা করিয়া দেখা উচিত, মোছলমান সম্প্রদায়ের পরিশ্রমের উপরই এই প্রদেশের অর্থ জন্ম হইতেছে, কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে মোছলমানদেরও দান আছে, কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি ও মোছলমান সম্প্রদায়ের উপর অন্যায় অবিচার করাতেই, Secondary Education Bill এত জনপ্রিয়। Sir, বিরুদ্ধ দল হইতে মোছলেম লীগের নামে মোসলেম লীগের পর্দ্দার আড়ালে থাকিয়া আজ এই পরিষদে oppositionএর নাম লইয়া তাঁহাদের মধ্য হইতে ২।১ জন মেম্বর খুব বীরত্বের সহিত ও বহু কান্নাকাটির সহিত এখানে বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন। স্যার! আমি আপনার যোগে আমার সেই সমস্ত বন্ধুদের জিজ্ঞাসা করি—বন্ধুগণ! কোয়ালিশান গভর্ণমেণ্টের আমলে যখন আপনাদের হাতে ক্ষমতা ছিল, আপনারা যখন কোয়ালিশন পার্টির সর্ব্বেসর্ব্বা ছিলেন, আপনাদের নিকট আমরা পুনঃপুনঃ বিলটি পাশ করাইবার জন্য অনুরোধ করিয়াছিলাম। আপনারা কি জবাব দিয়াছিলেন? (Noise) আমাদের কথায় সাড়া দেন নাই।

স্যার! ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে Secondary Education Bill, Money-lenders Amendment Bill, ইত্যাদি জনহিতকর কার্য্যে আমাদের সঙ্গে কো-অপারেশন করার জন্য আমরা পুনঃপুনঃ আহ্বান করিয়াছিলাম, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আপনারা তখন আমাদের সে আহ্বানে সাড়া দেন নাই। আপনারা তখন মানুষের স্বার্থের পূজা, চাকরির দালালি ইত্যাদি কার্য্যে ব্যস্ত ছিলেন। আপনাদের তখন Bengal Secondary Education Billএর কথা মনে ছিল না, Bengal Secondary Education Bill পাশ হওয়ার উপকারিতার কথা আপনাদের মনে ছিল না। ঢাকা ডিঃ বোর্ডে যাহাতে দরিদ্র শিক্ষিত মোছলেম সন্তান চেয়ারম্যান হইতে না পারে, আহছান মঞ্জিলের অহঙ্কার ও স্পর্দ্ধা যেন অক্ষুণ্ণ থাকে সেই জন্য, Bengal Local Self-Government Actকে তাড়াতাড়ি সংশোধন করিয়া মিঃ ছলিমকে চেয়ারম্যান করিয়াছেন, Bengal Secondary Education Bill, Moneylenders Billকে ভুলিয়া গিয়াছিলেন।

স্যার! আজ আমি আমার বন্ধুদের বলিতেছি যে আজ দুকুল হারাইয়া কাঁদিলে লাভ নাই। মন্ত্রিত্বের গদিচ্যুত হইয়া, ক্ষমতা হারাইয়া, পুনরায় মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি দখল করার উদ্দেশ্যে আজ আপনারা মোসলেম প্রীতি, আজ আপনারা মোসলেম সংহতি, মোসলেম শক্তির জন্য এসলামের দরদী সাজিয়া অবিরত আহার নিদ্রা পরিত্যাগ করিয়া কাঁদাকাটি করিতেছেন। কিন্তু আমি জানি, আপনাদের সঙ্গে আমি কাজ করিয়াছি এবং সে অভিজ্ঞতা আমার আছে যে আপনারা কতদূর এসলাম দরদী? মুসলমান জাতির স্বার্থের সঙ্গে, মুসলমান জাতির উন্নতি অবনতির সঙ্গে, সুখ ও দুঃখের সঙ্গে, খোদা ও রসুলের আদেশ উপদেশের সহিত আপনারা কতদূর জড়িত তা জানি; সে অভিজ্ঞতা আমার যথেষ্ট আছে। গত ৪।৫ বৎসর আপনাদের সঙ্গে কাজ করিয়া এবং ভূতপূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিসভার মধ্যে যাঁরা বিশিষ্ট সভ্য ছিলেন তাঁরা আজ কেউ, মোসলেম লীগের সেক্রেটারী কি নাম করা জাঁদরেল, তাঁদেরও study করিয়া দেখিয়াছি যে এছলাম ও মোছলমানের জন্য তাহাদের ভিতর

কিরূপ? মোসলেম সংহতি রক্ষা কর, রক্ষা কর বলিয়া বড় বড় অক্ষরে সাইন বোর্ড লটকাইয়াছেন, কিন্তু জিজ্ঞাসা করি মন্ত্রী থাকা কালীন আপনারা লীগের জন্য মফস্বলে ভুলেও কোথাও গিয়াছিলেন? ভিতরে সবার সেই উদর পূজা। আজ বাংলার কৃষককে, দরিদ্র মুসলমানগণকে নিষ্পেষিত করিবার ফন্দী করিয়াছেন মোসলেম লীগের পবিত্র নাম ও ক্ষমতা লইয়া মুসলমান সমাজের উপরে সেই সাম্রাজ্যবাদী কর্তৃত্ব স্থাপন করা এবং ধনতন্ত্রের নীতির উপরে আস্থা স্থাপন করিয়া উহাদের অভাব অভিযোগ চূর্ণ বিচূর্ণ করিয়া হিন্দু-মুসলমান জমিদারদের নিকট তাহাদের প্রভাব প্রতিপত্তি স্বার্থ বিক্রয় করিয়া মুসলমান জাতির প্রকৃত backbone চূর্ণবিচূর্ণ করিয়া দেওয়াই আপনাদের লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্য। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি আপনারা মোসলেম লীগের কত বড় দরদী ছিলেন? মোসলেম লীগের নামে এক ঢাকা ফ্যামিলীরিই দুজন মিনিষ্টার ছিলেন। এক ঢাকা ফ্যামিলীরিই দুজন পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী ছিলেন (shame! shame!)। আপনাদের এই দলটী পার্লামেণ্টারী Secretary ও ঢাকার Ministerদের যা policy তাই সমর্থন করতেন বিনিময়ে আপনারা তাঁবেদার মেম্বরগণ এক একজন প্রতি বৎসর নানা কমিটীর নামে ঘুরে ফিরে হাজার হাজার টাকা উপায় করেছেন। তাই আজ আপনারা তাঁবেদাররূপে এখনও তাঁদের সঙ্গে নেমক হালালির সহিত মিশে আছেন। ইহাতে মোছলমানদের কোন উপকার হয় নাই। মোসলেম লীগের নীতির সঙ্গে মুসলমান জাতির স্বার্থ, মুসলমান জাতির অভাব অভিযোগ, দুঃখ দুর্দ্দশা এবং তাদের নির্যাতন কাহিনীর সহিত আপনাদের পরিচয় নাই। আপনারা হ্যাট কোট ইত্যাদি সাহেবি পোষাক পরেন, সাহেবি খানা খাইয়া থাকেন—এছলামের পোষাক পরিচ্ছদ সভ্যতা ও আচার প্রথার উপরে আপনাদের আস্থা নাই, আজ কি করিয়া আপনারা লীগের সেবক হইবেন? আজ আপনারা কি করিয়া সেই নিরন্ন, নিঃসহায়, মুসলমানদের অবস্থা জানিতে পারিবেন; আপনারা কি করিয়া সেই অন্নবস্ত্রহীন মুসলমানদের দরদী হইতে পারিবেন। স্যার, আমি আপনার যোগে আমার বন্ধুদের বলিতেছি—যে বড় বড় কথা বলিলেও আজ আপনারা নিজের স্বার্থের জন্য মোসলেম লীগের নামে বাংলার মুসলমানকে বাংলার বাহিরের হিন্দু মোছলমান ধনীদের নিকট বিক্রয় করিতেছেন। মোসলেম লীগের নামে বাংলার মুসলমান-দিগকে অবাঙ্গালীর কাছে গোলাম করিয়া দিতেছেন। আজ আমরাও, মোসলেম লীগে আছি মোসলেম সংহতি ও পাকিস্থান চাই—আপনাদের মত নহে, ঈমানদারের মত আমরাও তার ভিতর আছি (Opposition Bench "মারহাবা")। আজ কলিকাতাবাসী বড় বড় নেতার হাতে মোসলেম লীগের ক্ষমতা গেলে মুসলমান সমাজের অভাব অভিযোগ দূর হবে না। প্রকৃত মোছলমান স্বার্থ রক্ষা হইবে না, কয়েকটী লোকের স্বার্থ হইবে মাত্র। গণতান্ত্রিক ধর্ম্ম পবিত্র এছলামের গণতন্ত্র নীতির অপমান ও অপব্যাবহার হইবে, এবং যাঁহারা দেশের জন্য ধান গাছে তক্তা তৈয়ার করেন সে শ্রেণীর লোকের হাতে ক্ষমতা গেলে চলবে না, ইসপাহান মুলুকের লোক বাংলার মুসলমানের অবস্থা জানে না। আজ সিন্ধুদেশের মুসলমান বাংলার মুসলমানের খবর রাখেন না। আজ কলিকাতাবাসী যাঁরা গাড়ী ঘোড়া ছাড়া চলেন না, তাঁরা বাংলার পল্লীর মুসলমানের খবর জানেন না। যাঁরা জানে তারা আজ মুসলমানের স্বার্থের জন্য যুদ্ধ করিতেছে, মুসলমানের স্বার্থ রক্ষা করিতেছে, প্রাণ দিয়া রক্ষা করিবে, সেই মৌলবী এ, কে, ফজলুল হক ও তাঁহার দল।

আমি আমার বন্ধুদের বলিতেছি যে আজ বড় অসময়ে কান্নাকাটি করিতেছেন। সেই সময় যদি আপনাদের সুবুদ্ধি হইত এই Secondary Education Bill তখনই অতি সহজে পাশ করান যাইত কিন্তু তখন ভুলেও ইহার কথা মনে করেন নাই। বাংলা সরকারের তহবিল লুট তরাজেই তখন ব্যস্ত ছিলেন। আজ আপনারা কান্নাকাটি না করিয়া পাপের প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করুন। স্যার, আমি এই motion সমর্থন করিতেছি এবং যাহাতে ৩০শে জুনের ভিতরে Select Committeeর report Governmentএর নিকট আসে এবং Government যথা সম্ভব সত্বর, দরকার হইলে পরিষদের Special Session আহ্বান করিয়াও এই Billটী পাশ করিয়া দেন, সেইজন্য অনুরোধ করিতে দাঁড়াইয়াছি।

মিঃ মাইতি বলিয়াছেন যে দুটা বোর্ড—একটা হিন্দুর জন্য একটা মুসলমানের জন্য—তাহার কি প্রয়োজন? আমি এখানে বলিতে চাই—হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান দুই জাতির কৃষ্টি, সভ্যতা, সংস্কার এবং ধর্ম্ম সম্বন্ধে যদি বিবেচনা করি তাহলে আমাদিগকে স্বীকার করিতেই হইবে যে সম্পূর্ণ বিভিন্ন। Government এই প্রস্তাব অগ্রাহ্য করিতে পারেন না। ইহা সঙ্গতই করিয়াছেন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি হিন্দু—হিন্দুর কৃষ্টি, ধর্ম্ম ও সংস্কার এবং মুসলমান—মুসলমানের কৃষ্টি, সভ্যতা ও সংস্কার এই দুটী পৃথক অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখিয়াও আজ বাংলার মাটীর উপর এই দুই জাতি প্রীতির সহিত বাস করিতে পারিবে।

উপসংহারে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জানাইয়া দিতে চাই যে Secondary Education Billএতে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট মোছলেম সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি শৈথিল্য, অবহেলা, কি উদাসীন্য দেখান তাহা হইলে মোছলমান সমাজ তাহা কখনও সহ্য করিবে না। তাহারা তাহাদের স্বার্থ বজায় রাখিবার জন্য যে কোন পরিস্থিতির মোকাবেলা হইবে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion on this motion will continue till tomorrow. After this motion is finished I will take up the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Area) Amendment Bill tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned till 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 11-30 a.m. till 9 a.m. on Thursday, the 2nd April, 1942, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 2nd April, 1942, at 9 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 189 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Nomination of members to the District Board and Cox's Bazar Municipality, Chittagong.

***218. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what is the reason for the unusual delay in publishing the nomination of the members to the District Board of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Municipality?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate the extension of the life of the local bodies beyond the term prescribed by the Local Self-Government?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu): (*a*) The notification appointing members of the Chittagong District Board has been issued. As regards the Cox's Bazar Municipality also, appointments have been made and a notification is expected to be issued shortly.

(*b*) Government have no such intention. The members of the existing Boards will, however, remain in office till the first regular meeting of the next Boards by virtue of section 19A(*3*) of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act and section 56(*2*) of the Bengal Municipal Act.

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he can give us the approximate date of issuing the notification containing the names of nominated and elected members of the Cox's Bazar Municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It is expected to be done in the course of a fortnight.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the election of the Cox's Bazar Municipality took place?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I have no idea.

Rai Sahib ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when were the recommendations by the local officers received by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That must have been done before I came into office.

Kalimpong country spirit shop.

***219. Mr. DAMBER SINCH GURUNG:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise and Forest Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when and how the Kalimpong country spirit shop fell vacant; and

(*ii*) whether any advertisement for the resettlement of the shop was made?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for it?

MINISTER in charge of the EXCISE and FOREST DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Nath Barman): (*a*) (*i*) The shop has not fallen vacant within the last few years.

(*ii*) and (*b*) Do not arise.

Jute Advisory Board.

***220. Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the report submitted by the members of the Jute Advisory Board regarding the regulation of the growing of jute in 1942?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have accepted the said report?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) The members of the Jute Advisory Committee did not submit any report to Government.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Jute Advisory Committee was to submit any report and, if so, by when?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice to answer that question.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Advisory Board itself submitted any report? He has said: "The members of the Jute Advisory Committee did not submit any report."

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am not aware of any report being received by Government from the Jute Advisory Committee.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any report was made by the Board at all?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already stated that Government has not received any report at all.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: That's all right. But I want to know whether the Board itself framed any report.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: How can I answer that? I have not received any report.

Relaxation of restriction of jute cultivation.

***221. Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating the relaxation of the existing restrictions of jute cultivation by permitting cultivation to the extent of two-thirds of the original areas under the crop?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: At the beginning of December last Government announced that the acreage for 1942 would be 10/16ths of the recorded acreage of 1940 but on further consideration of the question they have since decided to advise the licensed growers to sow jute this year on less than their licensed acreage but in no case on less than 8-annas of the acreage recorded in their names in 1940 and to grow on all lands not under jute the maximum amount of food crops, especially paddy.

There never was any question of relaxing the restriction by permitting cultivation to the extent of two-thirds.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the cultivation of jute in the low-lying land is already complete and also sowing in the higher land is rapidly progressing?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: As far as I am aware, sowing has been complete in low land but not in high land.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: If that is the fact, how does the Government propose to put in practice its new decision of reducing the acreage to not less than 8 annas?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Government have already started widespread propaganda through the sources of jute restriction officials and other officials who are advising the cultivators as far as possible that they should not grow jute in acreage not less than 8 annas.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the advisory efforts on the part of the Government and voluntary efforts on the part of the cultivators in the past have entirely failed to meet the requirements of the situation?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: That is a matter of opinion. As I have already said that there is no other method at present in the short time available except the voluntary method.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether if this voluntary method fails due to overproduction of jute and the cultivators have a loss, the Central Government will be responsible to make up the loss?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can he answer that?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I mean—will the Provincial Government press upon the Central Government to make up for the loss, because it was at the instance of the Central Government that the Provincial Government decided to sow larger acreage?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise. How do you anticipate loss?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: My question is, if there be overproduction.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It is not a question of opinion, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell the House why compulsion was resorted to when voluntary effort had not succeeded?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of this.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what would be the result of the excess production if after the propaganda the cultivators sow two-thirds instead of half?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I say that question does not arise at present. If there be an excess production on account of the advice not being followed, at that time Government will consider what to do.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the difficulty in enforcing 8 annas restriction?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: He says that licences have already been issued, but even a large number of licences can be cancelled or amended in one or two weeks.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: My question is: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the difficulty in enforcing the 8 annas restriction and not leaving it to voluntary restriction?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: A statement has already been made on the jute question by the Hon'ble the Premier clearly explaining the position and giving reasons why this method has been adopted. I can add nothing further to that statement.

Alleged misbehaviour of soldiers in Calcutta.

*222. **Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) of a widespread feeling of panic in the minds of the public due to several cases of assault on women; and

(*ii*) looting of shops by soldiers in Calcutta and suburbs?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government have taken to prevent the recurrence of such unhappy incidents?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): I have not received any reports of the nature indicated but I am making enquiries.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what report he has not received—report about widespread feeling of panic or report about the looting of shops by soldiers in Calcutta and suburbs?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: As regards the widespread feeling of panic, we know that in certain places there has been panic, but as regards the looting of shops by soldiers in Calcutta and suburbs no definite reports have been received by Government as yet.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the reported Chowringhee incident and also to the incident of looting of shops in the New Market by soldiers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: As regards the Chowringhee incident that matter is *sub judice*. The case is being tried. Nothing can be done until the matter is finally disposed of by the Court. As regards looting by soldiers and other matters, of course no direct or definite complaint has been received by the Government. It is a mere rumour and Government are making enquiries.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that Government have started making enquiries?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the Government expect to complete their enquiries?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I cannot give any idea about it, because we have no definite report about the incidents. It will therefore take some time to arrive at a final decision.

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of publishing the result of the enquiry in a Government *communiqué*?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I cannot say anything definite just now. It may be published. I do not think there can be any objection on the part of the Government to issue a *communiqué* regarding the report if sufficient materials are available.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us if the soldiers involved in the Chowringhee incident have actually been apprehended?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: In the Chowringhee case the young man has been prosecuted and after the decision of the case Government will see whether the soldier is really responsible for the wrong deed or the young man is responsible. Before that Government cannot take any action.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten the House if the Government have been able to trace the soldiers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Some soldiers are complainants. Some of the witnesses are also soldiers. Of course the question of tracing out soldiers is not of so much importance in this case.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly inform us about the nature and method of enquiry that has been referred to in his reply?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: A statement will be made later on.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any method of common action between the police of the city and the military police has been established in order that there may be no repetition of incidents referred to?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Of course no such action has yet been taken. Government is considering about it.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take any such action in the interest of peace in this city?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Of course, it will certainly receive the sympathetic attention of Government.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of making the residential quarters of this town out of bounds to soldiers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Yes, certainly Government will do that.

Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks it desirable to have recourse to the principle that "prevention is better than cure"?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Yes. I can add nothing further to that.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Clerks in Tippera khasmahal.

92. Mr. JACAT CHANDRA MANDAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of ministerial officers in the Tippera khasmahal; and

(*ii*) how many of them are from the—

(1) Caste Hindus,
(2) Muslims, and
(3) Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) *Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do the* Government contemplate to take for the increase of number of Scheduled Caste officers in the said office?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee): (*a*) (*i*) 5 (permanent 3, and temporary 2).

	Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.
(*ii*) Caste Hindus	1	1	2
Muslims	2	1	3
Scheduled Casets	..	..	..

(*b*) Clerks of the Khasmahal Department are included in the general strength of the District Office and the communal ratio is calculated on the whole strength of the District Office.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*) whether the Scheduled Castes have got the requisite number of posts according to the Communal Ratio Rules on the proposed strength of the district offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: That information is not available to me. The question is as is indicated in Question No. 92 and the answer is that there are 5 posts, 3 permanent and 2 temporary. But according to the Communal Ratio Rules the unit is 6.

Attachment of estates under section 99 of Cess Act in Rangpur.

93. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many estates in the district of Rangpur are under attachments under section 99, Cess Act (Bengal Act IX of 1880);

(*ii*) how many of such estates have been attached under section 99 of the Cess Act immediately after they have been released; and

(*iii*) the reasons for re-attachment?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in contravention of section 168A of the Bengal Tenancy Act, as amended, distress warrants for attachments and sale of movables are being usually issued against judgment-debtors of these attached estates by the certificate officers?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: (*a*) (*i*) Six.

(*ii*) None.

(*iii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) It is permissible to issue distress warrant in such cases as the Collector is not the landlord in respect of the tenants of estates attached under section 99 of the Cess Act.

(*c*) Government will examine the question. The only alternative to attachment and sale of movables is the sale of the holding or other immovable properties of the tenant.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain whether the Collector should be advised not to issue distress warrants as suggested in the answer?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: May I ask you, Sir, if Government is bound to "explain". The question is "Will the Government explain"?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is any explanation Government can do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Very well, Sir. My answer is given in reply to question (*c*). Government will certainly examine the question.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Collector of Rangpur could be asked not to issue distress warrants against the tenants?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I shall be prepared to make an enquiry from the Collector as to what the position is at Rangpur. But it is difficult for Government to concentrate attention specially upon one area unless there are special reasons.

Grants to schools and maktabs.

94. Mr. M. A. H. ISPAHANI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that grants-in-aid to some schools and maktabs in the district of Noakhali, have recently been withheld by the District School Board of Noakhali?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating taking any steps in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION and COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim): (a) No.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to answer (a), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "no"?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: He means "no".

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I want to know whether the answer "no" means that he is not aware or whether it means that no grants have been withheld?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Not aware.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has made any enquiry as to whether any grants have been withheld?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have not, but if the honourable member so desires, I will do it.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: The question suggests that there should be an enquiry.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon ble Minister be pleased to state whether any notice was served to show cause why the grant-in-aid should not be withheld?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is already included in the answer given. I am not aware of any such notice being served.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My question is really a question of privilege, Sir. This question was put by a member with the idea that the Hon'ble Minister would find out if there was actually any withholding of grant-in-aid. The answer is that he is not aware. It is only to be expected that the Minister sitting in the chair in his

room is not aware, but it is his duty to write to the President of the District School Board to ascertain if that is not a fact. He confesses that he has not done so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot do anything in the matter. You are entitled to put supplementary questions to elicit any further information you want.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He says that he has not made any enquiry. To every question that may be put, if that is to be the answer, then there is an end of the matter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to hold any further enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have already promised to make an enquiry in response to the request made by Mr. Syed Abdul Majid.

Mr. SYED GHOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে, জানাবেন কি, যে সকল স্কুলের managementএর বিরুদ্ধে departmental officer রিপোর্ট করেছেন, সেই সকল স্কুলের grant বন্ধ করা School Boardএর পক্ষে সঙ্গত কি না?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: That is a matter for the School Board to consider which is an independent body

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Resuscitation of rivers Atrai and Gur in Rajshahi.

*189. **Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the Atrai and the Gur rivers in the district of Rajshahi have begun silting up; and

(*ii*) that in the summer season some parts of the river completely dry up making navigation in them impossible and causing loss of trade and commerce?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, he intends to take in the matter?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of having the matter thoroughly investigated by experts for the purpose of formulating a scheme for resuscitation of the rivers immediately?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Navigation is not possible in the Atrai in summer, but the Gur remains navigable by boats of not more than 2½ feet draft.

(b) and (c) The honourable member is referred to the reply given on the 6th March, 1941, to clauses (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 117.

Ministerial staff employed for war emergency work.

***200. Mr. YUSUF ALI CHOUDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(i) the names;

(ii) designations; and

(iii) scales of pay (lower and upper division to be shown separately) of the clerical staff appointed in connection with the A.R.P. and War Injuries Ordinance in the Commerce and Labour Department?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) when was the appointment in the upper division for War Injuries Ordinance made; and

(ii) what steps, if any, were taken to secure a suitable Muslim for the above appointment in accordance with the instructions contained in the Government of Bengal, Home Department (Appointment), memorandum No. 594-A., dated the 10th February, 1942?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: (a) A statement is laid on the Table.

(b) (i) On the 23rd February, 1942.

(ii) Applications were invited on the 24th January, 1942, from the lower division assistants in the several departments of the Secretariat with at least 10 years' experience for the temporary post of upper division assistant as the nature of the work required previous experience for some years in the Secretariat. No Muslim candidate with such experience was available from any other department. In view of the

nature of the work and the desirability of appointing a Secretariat lower division assistant by promotion, the necessity of following the instructions contained in the Home Department memorandum No. 594-A., dated the 10th February, 1942, which were received long after notices inviting applications were issued, was not apparent. The appointment was made with the approval of the Communal Ratio Officer.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 200.

	Name of assistant.	Designation, whether in the upper division or in the lower division, etc.	Scale of pay.
1.	Babu Debendra Nath Biswas.	Upper division Assistant	Rs.125—125—150—10—250—15—400. Unrevised upper division scale of pay in the Secretariat.
2.	Babu Manindra Mohan Mukherjee.	Ditto	Ditto.
3.	Maulvi Mazharul Huq Khan.	Lower division Assistant	Rs.60 per mensem fixed.
4.	Babu Syamdev Banerjee	Typist	Rs.45 per mensem fixed.
5.	Maulvi Wahidur Rahman	Ditto	Ditto.
6.	Babu Nagendra Nath Das.	Lower division Assistant	Rs.60 per mensem fixed.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of the fact that the appointment was made on the 23rd February, that is, 13 days after the Home Department circular, dated the 10th February, was received, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no action was taken to make a fresh advertisement in accordance with the instructions contained in the circular?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Long after the notice inviting applications was issued, the instructions contained in the circular were received, and as a matter of fact, after that we made some enquiries and a Muhammadan officer was forthcoming, but he could not be appointed on account of his personal incapacity, and the post was filled by a Hindu assistant of the Communications and Works Department on account of his usefulness in that particular kind of work.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: In view of the fact that the advertisement was made on the 24th January and the appointment was

made on the 23rd February, that is, after one full month, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he still maintains that it was an urgent case?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot add anything more to what I have already said.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: With reference to the statement referred to in reply to clause (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why out of the six posts only two posts, and that also in the Lower Division, were given to the Muslims?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: There were no other candidates available.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that by this arrangement the Muslim community is getting only Rs. 105 per month as against Rs. 405 which is going to the Hindu community?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA CHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to have your ruling on the point as to whether a member is entitled to raise any arithmetical monetary proportion with regard to communal ratio rules or whether he is entitled to mention the ratio of number only?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question, Mr. Majid?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Sir, I have just said that only two posts in the lower grade were given to the Muslims, and my question is why the communal ratio was not maintained in this case and whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that by this arrangement the Muslims receive only Rs. 105 as against Rs. 405 received by the Hindus?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is all right.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I have already said that there were no other Muslim candidates available and so these appointments went to the Hindus.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in his opinion the communal ratio can be adjusted by appointments of the menials as far as the Muslim community is concerned?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the fact that the proportion was not kept so far as the service ratio is concerned because by this he tried to satisfy the Hindu community at the sacrifice of interests of the Muslim community?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not fact that one of the Upper Division assistants, Babu Manindra Mohan Mukherjee who was an assistant in the Education Department, was found unsuitable for the Special A. R. P. War Injuries Ordinance work two or three days after he had joined and was given the ordinary work of the Department of Commerce and Labour and that one permanent and important assistant of the department has been directed to do the special A. R. P. War Injuries Ordinance work?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: I cannot say offhand without making an enquiry.

A.R.P. equipments for Chittagong.

***210. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the requisitions made by the District Magistrate of Chittagong some months ago for A.R.P. equipments and necessary funds?

(*b*) Has his request been complied with?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Chittagong is very ill-equipped so far as A.R.P. preparation and coastal defence are concerned?

(*e*) If so, what step is being taken by Government to place funds in the hand of local authorities for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, as far as possible.

(*c*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

(*d*) No. Coastal defence matters are not the responsibility of this Government.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the percentage of cost of equipments for A. R. P. preparations in Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I can give a list of equipments supplied to Chittagong but I cannot give any percentage figures. The full quantity of handbells due for the wardens' posts has been supplied. The cost of making 125 stretchers and 24 ambulance frames was sanctioned by Government; 25 stretchers were supplied previously; 166 blankets were supplied by the Surgeon-General and 50 blankets were supplied previously. Uniforms were supplied. Orders were placed with contractors for the supply of badges with brassards. Orders were placed with contractors for the immediate supply of 812 axes, the full quantity required for Street Fire Parties and A. R. P. buildings. Out of the total quantity of 1,660 buckets, required for Street Fire Parties, Rescue Service and A. R. P. buildings 444 have been supplied and the contractors have been directed to supply 1,216 immediately.

Supply of 2,116 pairs of shoulder letters has been ordered.

Previously 12 lorries were sanctioned by this department, another 6 lorries have been recently purchased and sent to Chittagong for A. R. P. work.

1,605 whistles have been supplied, the balance of 1,051 are on order with the contractors. The total 2,656 makes up the full requirements for the Wardens' Service and the Street Fire Party Service.

The Government of India are supplying two lots of steel helmets and Chittagong has been allotted almost its full supply.

The Additional District Magistrate, Chittagong, has been authorised to raise whatever rescue equipments he can obtain locally; meanwhile arrangements are being made to send equipments for 1 Heavy and 3 Light Parties immediately, etc.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In view of the threatened invasion of the Chittagong district, does the Hon'ble Minister think what has been sent is enough for A. R. P. arrangements in Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: That is our information, and I think what is necessary has been supplied.

Restraint order on some residents of Khulna.

***211. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether

a number of residents of Khulna town including some females were served with notices early in September last restricting their movements outside the municipal limits of Khulna for a certain period?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such action?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter whether or not the District Magistrate of Khulna has issued such an order?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Yes, Sir, I will look into the matter.

Bengal Provincial Forward Bloc Conference.

***212. Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVERTY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that a conference called the Bengal Provincial Forward Bloc Conference is going to be held in Calcutta shortly?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Forward Bloc and the Conference proposed to be held in Calcutta shortly under its auspices have been declared illegal under any Act or Ordinance?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that several districts in Bengal elected delegates to the said Conference; and

(*ii*) that the names of those delegates have been published in the Calcutta papers since the third week of August, 1941?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Government have recently passed orders on persons of Faridpur, Chittagong, Comilla, Pabna, Khulna and other districts who were elected delegates to the said Conference restricting their movements for a period of one month?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the terms of such orders?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason or reasons for which orders have been passed on those delegates restricting their movements for a period of one month?

(*g*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the fact that news relating to the passing of the said orders on the said delegates from Faridpur, Chittagong, Comilla, Pabna and other districts have been published in the Calcutta papers?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the activities of the said delegates which are sought to be restrained by the said orders?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*), (*c*) and (*g*) I understand that there have been statements to this effect in the press.

(*b*) No.

(*d*) No such orders have been passed by Government.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*h*) Do not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any district officer issued such orders?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Yes, Sir, as far as information goes, some district officers have passed such orders.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was with the consent of the Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Government was not consulted then.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government approved the action of the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: Of course, the order was passed some time ago in September, 1941, and the policy of the Government has been changed now. The present Government, I do not think, will pass such orders without examining the matter in full.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has referred to a change in the policy of the Government. Will he be pleased to explain it to the House as to where and how this change has taken place?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: This is too wide and too vague a question, and it is not possible for me to reply.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, as the protector of the rights of the members of the House, I appeal to you to consider that when a positive statement like a change of policy is made, it is only fair that members should be told what is in the mind of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said that it is a broad question of policy. It is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister to state the entire policy of the Government with regard to this particular question.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I do not want any statement on the entire policy of the Government, but on the change in the policy of the Government with regard to the subject-matter of the question to which he answered.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: The change, Sir, as I have already stated, is that without enquiry and without being satisfied no order will be passed for externment or internment of any member of the society.

Passage money and restriction on internees.

***213. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether persons against whom externment or internment orders are passed are paid any passage money to destinations and allowance during the journey they are ordered to undertake;

(*b*) whether such persons are asked to explain their conduct in connection with any subversive activities or any activities prejudicial to the interest of Government with which they are suspected to be connected at any time before or after orders are passed;

(*c*) whether the condition of their health, the condition of the road, the mode of conveyance, the distance of the thana from the residence of the persons concerned and the season of the year are taken into consideration before any such person is ordered to report himself periodically to the thana; and

(*d*) whether any allowance is paid to the internee for his personal maintenance during the period of his internment?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes, but only in special cases.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No allowances are at present being paid.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, before any order is passed involving externment or internment, the economic position of the person concerned is enquired into—whether he has got money enough to go to the place of externment or internment?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: No, it is not done before the order is passed.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us what are the facts and circumstances that are taken into consideration for treating a case as a special case as referred to in the answer?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: In a special case there are various circumstances to be considered—the pecuniary circumstances in addition to the position of the member concerned, the difficulties which he has to undergo for his transfer or removal from one place to another, whether he has means to pay or not—all these are considered.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that in the case of many internees and externees, orders have been passed prohibiting them from mixing with any student and thus making it impossible for them to earn their living?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: I will look into the question.

Interview with Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.

***223.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Mrs. Sarat Chandra Bose has been granted an interview with her husband, Mr. S. C. Bose, at Markara?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mrs. Bose and her children will be permitted to stay in the same bungalow where Mr. Bose is living?

If the reply to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangement has been made for the temporary residence of Mrs. Bose and her children at Markara?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement for electric light and water-tap in the bungalow in which Mr. Bose is residing at present?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) It is understood that the Government of India have intimated to Mrs. Bose that they are prepared to allow her to interview her husband at Markara.

(*b*) and (*c*) This Government have no information.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether Government is aware of the contents of the letter of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose written to Mrs. S. C. Bose on the 18th March stating the following facts: "I have been lodged in a bungalow here. It is an old bungalow and has apparently not been used for many years. The living rooms are dark and ill-ventilated. There is no electric light in this bungalow and no water-tap either. Water is to be fetched from some distance. There seems to be scarcity of water here. This bungalow has apparently been converted into a sort of temporary jail and there are the usual paraphernalia——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Ghose, you want to know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the contents of that letter.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, it is a censored letter and, therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the contents of the letter. Let me complete the sentence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you cannot read the whole letter.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that if the Parliamentary Secretary does not know, some light should be thrown on it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is this. You ought to have given this letter to me first.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: All right, Sir. I am submitting that letter to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, at this stage you cannot do that.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question, this being the last day of the session. What I want to ask is, that we were promised a few days ago that the tribunal to consider the release of political prisoners would be announced within a week. More than ten days have gone——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, you please put that question after the present matter is finished.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, let me put the question. The Parliamentary Secretary may reply when they will be in a position to announce the names of persons forming that tribunal.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: As regards the question put by Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, I have no information. With regard to the question put by Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose, I have also no information on the point.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the bungalow in which Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose is living at present, there is no arrangement for water and Mrs. Bose and her children are not being allowed to stay in that very bungalow during the time of their interview?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: In this connection may I make the whole position clear. Mr. Bose is a prisoner of the Government of India and, as such, the proper way to ascertain facts concerning Mr. Bose is by a question in the Central Assembly.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the years 1933-35, Mrs. Bose and her children were allowed to live in the same bungalow with Mr. Bose whereas that arrangement is now being refused?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: I have no information.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no electric light in the bungalow, and Mr. Bose has got to pass his time and has got to read his books with the help of a kerosene lamp?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has already stated that it is not possible for the Bengal Government to answer that.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will Government consider the desirability of moving the Government of India to consider all these facts to make necessary arrangements so that when Mrs. Bose and her children go there for interview they may be allowed to live in the same bungalow with Mr. Bose?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: The Hon'ble Minister will certainly consider the propriety of taking up the question with the Government of India.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that the Chief Minister made a statement in this House to the effect that the Bengal Government is in communication with the Central Government to look after the comforts of Mr. Bose?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: No, as I was not present.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do we take it that because Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was arrested under the orders of the India Government, this Government have no responsibility whatsoever to look into the complaints?

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Yes, that is so.

Point of privilege.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of privilege, Sir. I will not take more than one minute. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated on the floor of the House in reply to certain supplementary questions about orders issued by Collectors that he would get the correct information before the session was over. Till now nothing has been done. I beg of you, Sir, as the protector of our rights to see that these Ministers carry out the promises they make in your presence and on the floor of the House. When shall we get that information?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall try to get the information on your behalf.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: On a point of privilege, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Mr. Basu will now speak.

Incident at Sealdah Station.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, yesterday on the floor of the House, my honourable friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, made a reference to a certain incident which took place at the Sealdah Station. I said yesterday that I had no information beyond what was mentioned to me in a casual manner by the Secretary of the Marwari Relief Society. Since then I have caused enquiries to be made, and I am in a position to make a statement as to the steps which Government have taken in this matter, and I hope, Sir, that the House will give me the indulgence of making that statement available to the House. Mr. Tulsiram Saraogi, Secretary, Marwari Relief Society, and Mr. Desai of the Indian Chamber of Commerce rang up Mr. K. Sen, Special Officer, Civil Defence Co-ordination Department, on the evening of the 14th March last and told him about the incident. According to them a European soldier was dashing along the platform and was about to collide against the groups of refugees who had arrived by train. Some of the volunteers expostulated with him, when he got enraged and pushed a small refugee boy into the narrow space between the edge of the platform and the train. The train was not moving and the boy was hurt though not very seriously. Mr. Saraogi then intervened and spoke to the soldier. The soldier was about to assault him and then went away. Mr. Saraogi and Mr. Desai also told Mr. Sen that they had reported the matter to Mr. Holland, the Additional Secretary, Public Health and Local Self-Government Department, who happened to be present on the platform on behalf of the Evacuees' Reception Committee at some distance from the place of occurrence.

On receiving this information on the telephone Mr. Sen at once tried to get into touch with Mr. Holland, but learnt that he had left the Sealdah Station. Mr. Sen then rang up the Military Officer in charge of the Military Families' Reception Office on the Sealdah platform. The officer told Mr. Sen that he had not seen but had heard of the incident. The soldier concerned did not belong to his staff and was presumably not on duty. He had not also been recognised by any member of his staff. The officer, however, promised to make enquiries and to inform Mr. Sen of the results next morning. On the following morning the officer rang up and told Mr. Sen that the man had not been traced. Mr. Sen requested him to make further enquiries and to let him know if anything definite was found. Mr. Sen has not heard from him since then.

Mr. Sen was told by Mr. Saraogi and Mr. Desai that Mr. Holland had promised to take up the matter which was, therefore, left in Mr. Holland's hands.

The matter was brought up again at the meeting of the Evacuees' Reception Committee on the 20th March, 1942. At that meeting

Mr. Holland stated that he proposed to take up the matter with the Brigadier but that he wanted the names of the gentlemen who had seen the occurrence before he did so. He had already asked Mr. Saraogi for the names and Mr. Saraogi had promised to give him the names but he had not actually done so. Mr. Saraogi then promised to send the names to Mr. Holland.

Mr. Saraogi actually sent the names to Mr. Holland on the 25th March, 1942. The names given by him were those of Mr. M. V. Gough-Govia, a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation, and Mr. Sachindra Das Gupta of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

In the meantime Mr. Holland spoke to the Chief Secretary, who authorised him to write direct to the Brigadier. Mr. Holland wrote to Brigadier Costin on the 26th March, 1942. In his letter he gave a detailed account of the incident and mentioned the fact that it had caused considerable indignation among the by-standers. Mr. Holland requested the Brigadier to cause an enquiry to be made to discover the culprit and to take steps so that similar incidents may be avoided. Mr. Holland also offered his personal assistance in the enquiry.

On the 27th March, 1942, Mr. Holland received a reply from Brigadier Costin who said that enquiries were being made and that the results would be communicated to Mr. Holland.

We are now awaiting further communication from the Brigadier, on receipt of which steps will be taken in the matter.

Point of privilege.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: On a point of privilege, Sir. The other day the Hon'ble Chief Minister assured us that he would announce the personnel of the tribunal within a week and on that matter a question has been asked, but we have not heard any reply. Apart from questions, Sir, we are entitled to an announcement within a week as the Chief Minister made a definite promise to that effect. I put the supplementary question in the morning and I was assured that in the evening it would be replied.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: As honourable members are aware, the Chief Minister was away at Delhi on very important business of an all-India character. In the meantime, steps have been taken to ascertain from the gentlemen who were to be approached in this connection as to whether they are in a position to accept the offer. Unfortunately, Sir, we have not yet received any reply, and it is difficult to make any statement at this stage in the absence of any acquiescence or consent on the part of those who will be approached for the purpose of taking up positions in the tribunal.

Rumours about Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I with your permission ask whether Government will be prepared to make a statement on a matter of great public importance—I refer, Sir, to the recent crop of rumours with regard to Deshgourab Subhas Chandra Bose. Sir, Mr. Bose disappeared on the 26th January, 1941. Ever since that date there have been various rumours, but we are not told as to what steps Government took with a view to ascertain his whereabouts and his present state of health. He disappeared under mysterious circumstances at a time when he was seriously ill and that added to the concern of his countrymen. The latest news about him has been disquieting to the extreme and various reports and counter-reports, contradictions and counter-contradictions have appeared in the Press. On one occasion Government did make a statement about Mr. Bose being in Axis countries, which was not corroborated by the Secretary of State for India in London in a subsequent statement. We are left absolutely in the dark and all sorts of rumours are being allowed to be spread in the Press. Therefore, it is high time that on a matter of such great public concern the Government, I submit, should make a statement as to what steps they are taking to obtain information about his whereabouts. Is it not possible for Government, if it is surmised that Mr. Bose is outside India at the present moment, to address a query through the Government of India to the Soviet Government to find out whether he is in Soviet Russia or in any other country?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Home Minister is absent. I do not know whether any other Minister can give an answer on behalf of the Home Minister. It would be proper to get a reply, if a reply is necessary, from the Hon'ble Home Minister and he is absent today.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: I wish to draw your attention to this, that these rumours are having a very, very detrimental effect——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't pay any heed to rumours.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: I wish to draw your attention to this particular point, that the rumours of Mr. Bose's death which are uncorroborated and unconfirmed are having a very detrimental effect on the aged mother of Mr. Bose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you hold the Government of Bengal responsible for that? The Government of Bengal are not responsible for that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: It is incumbent on the Government of Bengal to take steps to ascertain facts. Utterly false reports are being allowed to be circulated in the Bengal Press. False and unconfirmed rumours of this nature must be stopped.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1942.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department, while introducing this Bill, should have explained to the House the reasons why the previous Bill had been dropped after it had passed through the Select Committee and consideration of that Bill had been taken up and proceeded with by the House in November last and why a new Bill has been introduced at the fag-end of the session with such an unusually short notice. The Ministry owes an explanation to the members of the House as well as to the public outside why after incurring the expenditure of such a huge amount of the public money, that Bill was given up. The previous Bill was seriously opposed by a section of the Hindus headed by Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, mainly on the grounds that it provided for communal representation in the Board, the Executive Committees and in the various sub-committees. Exception was also taken to the representation of Europeans on the Board. Complaint was also made regarding inadequate provision of financial assistance by the Government. The present Bill also provides for communal representation not only in the Board and the Executive Committee, but also in the various sub-committees, e.g., the Finance Committee, the Girls' Secondary Education Committee, the Recognition and Grants Committee, the Examination Committee, the Vocational Education Committee and the Physical and Military Education Committee. Not only that, provision has also been made for an Islamic Secondary Education Committee and a Hindu Secondary Education Committee which was quite unknown in the former Bill. Although provision for communal representation was made in the former Bill, yet it was not so communal as the present Bill and on that score several speakers from the Congress side condemned the Bill with all the vehemence they were capable of in the course of their speeches yesterday. It has been freely admitted by some of those speakers including Dr. Sanyal that the present Bill is calculated to divide the people into different sections and that it continues to be more defective

than its predecessor. Dr. Banerjee, another speaker from the Congress side, went so far as to characterise the Bill as a retrograde measure and deprecated communal representations and ridiculed the idea of providing for a Hindu Secondary Education Committee. As regards Government contribution also it is the same in both the Bills. Why then the Hindus are silent over the Bill? Why no protest is raised by the so-called nationalist Hindu Press or the nationalist Hindu leaders outside this House? Sir, the reason is not far to seek. In the present Bill, not only in the Executive Council but also in various sub-committees I have mentioned before, Hindu predominance has been fully and effectively assured as has been clearly shown by my learned and honourable friend, Mr. Fazlur Rahman of Dacca, in course of his speech in connection with the constitution of the bodies concerned, and I need hardly think it necessary to repeat the arguments here. It is therefore obvious that the opposition to the previous Bill by a section of the Hindus whose vested interests in the Calcutta University were likely to be affected was not really for its communal character but for an apprehension that the Muslims with the Government officials on their side might have a predominant voice in the constitution of the Board as well as the Executive Council and the sub-committees and that ultimately the benefits and the privileges they have been so long enjoying through the Calcutta University might be taken away from them. Hence, so much heat and controversies were raised by them throughout the length and breadth of the country. And we have seen how Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has ultimately succeeded in overthrowing the Bill. Having come into power now, he has produced this present Bill. This is a matter of history now, and I do not like to enter into its details. Sir, it has been said and perhaps very justly said that the present Bill is no improvement on its predecessor. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill it has been mentioned that Secondary Education in this province has been expanded on an unplanned basis owing to lack of any single directing authority. There are about 1,400 secondary schools in the province including the Government high schools. The private schools, as we all know, are ill-staffed, ill-paid and ill-equipped. Although the University has annually made lakhs of rupees from the fees of the Matriculation Examination and publication of the text-books it has not spent even a single farthing over secondary schools or for the improvement of secondary education in this country. It pampered the post-graduate department at the cost of Secondary Education. But yet the control of holding the Matriculation Examination by the Board has not been given to it in this Bill, like its predecessor. The present Bill has also left the conduct of the Matriculation Examination with the Calcutta University. The contribution proposed to be given by the Government in this Bill to the Secondary Education Board will be too inadequate to give necessary financial assistance to all the secondary

schools whose number is not likely to be decreased in the near future. It is, therefore, essential that the conduct of the Matriculation Examination should be taken away from the University and vested in the Board. The secondary schools are badly in need of money, and it is quite unjust and unfair that the profits arising from their activities should be utilised to swell the resources of the University. A provision has, however, been made in this Bill to give compensation to the University if it ceases to hold the Matriculation Examination. I strongly oppose this provision as there is absolutely no justification for giving compensation to the University which has so long enjoyed the profits on the Matriculation Examination to the detriment of secondary education in this province. Sir, it has been said that the Government control has been mellowed down in this Bill to some extent. But that is not correct. If you calculate the number of officials in both the Bills it would be quite clear that there will be the same amount of control by officials in this Bill as its predecessor. Hence as I said, the present Bill cannot be given preference to the former one on that score also. Representation of Europeans or the Anglo-Indians on the Board also remains the same. It has been mentioned by one of the speakers that there is some improvement in the minor details. He further said that the technical, commercial, industrial and agricultural education have been brought within the scope of the Secondary Education Board in this Bill. But I believe, the definition of secondary education in the former Bill, after it had emerged from the Select Committee, was wide enough to include these kinds of education to be secondary education. There is no special or essential feature in this Bill. The Bill is nothing but a dodge to dupe the people. It may dupe the Muslim members who are supporting the present Ministry, but not us or any other intelligent people. It is a camouflage which may deceive my Muslim friends on the opposite, but not anybody else. I appeal to them with all the earnestness at my command to look into the provisions of the Bill and their implications a little more carefully and minutely and decide for themselves whether they should support the Bill in which the position of the Muslims will be much worse. There should be no hurry to pass the Bill. Let it go to the public once more and that for a short time and let us see what verdict they pass on it.

With these words I support the motion for circulation.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, I had no mind to disturb the House with any infliction of speech this morning. As a matter of fact, Sir, throughout the Budget Session I have observed a discreet silence, perchance any unguarded expression uttered in a moment of excitement or irresponsibility might, instead of soothing troubled waters, accentuate the bitterness between Muslim friends opposite and Muslims on this side of the House. I had further no mind to take part in the debate because to discuss the provisions of the Bill at this stage and

thus anticipate the decisions of the Select Committee would be premature. But certain friends of the Congress persuasion, creating, as they have done, a misleading impression in the House have compelled me to join issue with them. I would like, therefore, to remove the misconceptions that might be lurking in some minds at the earliest possible opportunity. Sir, if I have pleaded for better understanding and deeper reconciliation between communities and communities in Bengal, I would plead for a deeper contact between Mussalmans and Mussalmans—blood of the same blood, bone of the same bone, flesh of the same flesh, representing the same civilization, the same culture, the same traditions, the same ideologies and the same outlook on life and life's problems. Sir, we have been always against class domination. Our intention has never been to injure Muslim interests or wound Islam in any way, but only to operate upon the wounds that were festering into the body-politic of Bengal. But, alas, the wounds are healed up, but I doubt very much if the patient has survived. We have never fought Islam or Islamic ideals, but a class domination, pure and simple. I can assure my friends opposite that if behind the trappings of office, a coterie raises its head, that head must be struck down; if any group domination crystallizes or assumes any tangible shape, our plain duty will be not merely to resist or thwart it but to crush it out of existence. Sir, we are against domination in any form or shape, not merely in the political or administrative sphere but in the educational sphere as well. This is the reason why we plead for adequate representation of Muslims on the Secondary Board of Education. We shall not allow any encroachment upon our rights, sacred and inviolable, and propose to maintain our cultural integrity and political identity under all circumstances.

Sir, Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal seemed to be nationalistic enough yesterday and hinted at Muslim representation as calculated to stifle nationalist aspirations in the sphere of education. Dr. Sanyal is not here today, but may I appeal to him that if he is nationalistic enough, if he is broadminded enough, if he has got the vision of the vast educational possibilities in Bengal, will he, in the interests of nationalism itself, allow the Secondary Board of Education to be manned by Muslims alone? If we could hitherto entrust the educational destinies of Muslims in the hands of our Hindu brethren, there is no reason why Dr. Sanyal and people of his way of thinking would hesitate in entrusting their education to our care. But I am afraid there is a fly in the ointment. If Dr. Sanyal does not want Pakisthanisation in education, would he concede to the nationalisation of the same?

Another friend of the Congress persuasion seemed to carry things to their logical conclusion yesterday. Obsessed with his pet theory of

Socialism, he would allow no quarters for religious instructions in his scheme of educational reconstruction of the province. Divorced from religion, culture and cultural associations, without any incentive to human initiative this queer theory of Socialism has transformed human beings into so many soulless machines in the name of economic freedom. But man does not live by bread alone. I want a system which, while providing for economic reconstruction of human society on a solid and secure foundation, arranges for adequate facilities for the fulfilment of the cultural, religious, moral, spiritual, and emotional possibilities of man. We are not slaves of any slogan or civilization and do not propose to derive inspiration from questionable quarters—quarters hostile to the spirit and genius of Islam. We refuse to derive any inspiration from Karl Marx, Lenin, James, Benthan, Huxley or Mill when we can afford to have this from an infinitely greater man who has been responsible for the mightiest revolution in human society in every sphere of life—I mean the great Prophet of Arabia. He has propounded the theory of social and religious reconstruction of society—a theory comprehensive, broad-based, logical, consistent with the ordered progress of human society and compatible with the growth and evolution of world civilization and culture which, while providing for economic freedom in human society, satisfies the highest cultural and spiritual cravings of man. I would declare in no uncertain terms here and now like the Arab boy of yore that we bow to no created being on earth: our Prophet bids us yield adoration to none but Almighty God. If we sit at all we sit on equal terms: if we speak at all, we speak in equal accents. We shall not sacrifice our cultural identity, political integrity or social individuality before any power, any organisation, any individual, however great or eminent. We are Muslims: we propose to remain Muslims throughout: we are Muslims first, Muslims last and Muslims always. In this connection I would like to cure the mental abberations of some misguided politicians in India who have, in season and out of season, confused the real issue by indulging in the sentimental effusions that we are Indians first and Muslims or Hindus next. May I assure this House that this is a misleading impression sought to be created only to hoodwink the public. We are Muslims by virtue of the religion we profess, Indians because of the geographical unit to which we belong, Bengalis because of the province that has given us our birth. One can be a father, a brother, a husband, a son and a friend at the same time; father with reference to his own children, brother with reference to his own brothers, husband with reference to his wife, son with reference to his parents and friend with reference to his own friends. There is no conflict anywhere. Fortunately for us, Islam is not inconsistent with nationalism or patriotism; it is not in any way incompatible with the noblest urge for freedom and liberty or with the other genuine aspirations of human life.

Sir, in the course of the discussion yesterday, Mr. Wordsworth pleaded that education should be always for the sake of education, irrespective of Muslim, Hindu or Scheduled Caste representation on the Secondary Education Board. I say, bravo! We too plead for education for the sake of education and not for illiteracy or ignorance. But will Mr. Wordsworth be prepared to carry this theory to its logical conclusion? If education for the sake of education has to be conceded, why not freedom for the sake of freedom, India for the sake of Indians; and why not hands off Asia and India? What does he mean by education for the sake of education? Does he mean that kind of education which creates the real urge in the human mind for spoliation, ruination, exploitation and emasculation of the weaker nationalities and communities all over the world? Does he mean by that education a peculiar standard which culminates in fashionable dissipations, midnight revels and mild sensations of the ball-room? Mr. Wordsworth would have done well if he only cared to define education in all its bearings and implications. Does his education mean the manufacture of bombs and machine-guns and all those destructive weapons of modern warfare for the complete destruction of the entire human race? I do not think we need derive any inspiration from Mr. Wordsworth about education and culture. We, Muslims, have spoken the last word on culture. The finest definition of education and culture was given by Imam Jafarus-Sadeque under the guidance and inspiration of the great Prophet of Arabia, "the enlightenment of the heart is its essence, truth its principal object, inspiration its guide, God its inspirer and the words of men are its utterer." In other words, the real object of education should be to chasten and purify the human heart, to elevate and ennoble it and to purge it clean of all the dross and accretions that gather round it so that the stream of human life might flow in its pristine purity. That is the inspiration we want: not any inspiration from Karl Marx and Lenin, but real inspiration from the greatest Prophet of Islam who discovered the real theory of life and testified to the eternal truths from above. If a Muslim is true to himself and his ideals, he must have derived inspiration from the real fountain-head of life, the Holy Quoran. Similarly, Sir, if a Hindu is true to his ideals he must be inspired by the teachings of the Bhagbat Gita and the Upanishads. And a Christian to be a true Christian should also link himself up with the real currents of Christian culture as revealed in the Bible.

Before I conclude, Sir, may I assure the House that we will discuss the provisions of the Bill threadbare in the Select Committee and shall be able to make necessary adjustments. We will sit across a table and discuss the question of secondary education in a calm and dispassionate spirit and decide the fate of Muslims, Hindus and other communities in Bengal. We want to be adequately represented in the future scheme of educational reconstruction of the entire province but,

Sir, we refuse to submit to any domination, either in the administrative, political or educational sphere. We must have our own; not an iota of Muslim cultural and educational rights must be sacrificed. We want to maintain our Islamic culture in all its integrity and entirety.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion for referring the Bengal Secondary Education Bill to Select Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot allow any other speaker, because I will have to close this debate, and I will also have to take up another small Bill. I will adjourn the House just at 11 today. So I am sorry I cannot allow any other speaker today. Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Abdul Karim.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the simple question before the House now at this stage is whether according to my substantive motion the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee or according to the amendment it should go into circulation to elicit public opinion. On this simple point discussion has taken a rambling course without a distinct eye on the main issue before the House As a matter of fact, from the learned debates yesterday I have not come across even a single ground on which the motion for circulation is based They proceeded on the other hand to discuss various provisions of the Bill for which in my humble judgment the time was not opportune. As a matter of fact, the motion for circulation has not been seriously pressed. Dr. Sanyal said that if the Hon'ble Minister for Education would agree to all the clauses of the Bill being fully considered in the Select Committee he would not press his motion for circulation. Dr Sanyal hardly needed an assurance from me. As an old member of the Assembly he knows that the Select Committee can make any addition or alteration even to the extent of making a recommendation which would alter the character of the Bill itself. In that view of the case I do not think that any assurance is needed. I have launched my vessel on the waves. Let it go to the Select Committee. The said Select Committee can give it a definite shape if they are not satisfied with the provisions that we have on behalf of Government incorporated within the Bill itself.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has said that we could tear and chop the Bill as we like in the Select Committee. The same question arose in connection with another Bill and another Select Committee and the ruling was given that except for the clauses already circulated we could not introduce a new item, a new clause, or a new idea. May I ask your ruling whether the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister is correct or not?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Possibly he meant with regard to minor details. He did not mean the principle of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Yes, Sir, that is so. Once the principle of the Bill is accepted, you can make any alterations in the provisions thereof.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The Hon'ble Minister is in conflict. Even after accepting the principle of the Bill, no additional or extra matter can be brought in beyond that mentioned in the clauses that exist.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a fact, but as regards the interpretation of the speech of the Hon'ble Minister you can form your own opinion.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has just now said that not only can there be addition or alteration in the clauses themselves, but the character of the Bill itself may be altered. We want to know whether this is a correct proposition or not.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. I am deciding a point of order.

Let the Hon'ble Minister proceed on and then we will see. If necessary, I will give you my ruling afterwards.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Through you, Sir, we want an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that he will call the meeting of the Select Committee as early as possible. Our information is that he will never call a meeting of the Select Committee.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: My point of order is this. Can we at this stage in this House discuss the powers and the rights of a Select Committee regarding a Bill? We have no such rights to discuss them here. The Bill is going to the Select Committee. What are the powers and rights and liberties of a Select Committee are not within the jurisdiction of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Select Committee is bound by the orders of this House.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. ABDUL KARIM: Sir, the principle of the Bill has not up till today been disputed nor in the discussion that took place yesterday was even any hint thrown out that the principle is not sound and the matter cannot go before the Select Committee. From the year 1919 when the Sadler Commission made its recommendations, the matter has been uppermost in the mind of the educated population of the province of Bengal, and it must be said to the discredit of the Government of Bengal that, as a matter of fact, we are lagging behind in introducing a Bill for advancing the cause of secondary education.

Sir, the main principles underlying the Bill which we have in view are, firstly, the constitution of a Board to have unifying influence over all the educational institutions; secondly, to make it an autonomous body with as little interference from the Provincial Government as possible; and, thirdly, to look to the education of the various communities inhabiting this large province according to the genius of the communities themselves—in other words, retaining their separate identity and at the same time forming a body, a comity of all the communities. These are the main principles underlying the Bill which the Government have taken in hand to present before the House.

My friend Mr. Abdul Majid and others asked me to explain why the old Bill has been dropped. Well, I have an answer for that. I say that the old Bill was lying so long in a subconscious region of the Assembly. It was not dropped as they supposed it to be, and that lying stage has been helped to resuscitate into light in the discussions that took place yesterday in which attempts were made to make a comparative study of the provisions of the Bills with a view to make up their mind as to whether the present Bill is an improvement on the old Bill or the reverse. Therefore I say that the old Bill is not practically dead. In presenting this new Bill we have drawn our inspiration from the labours of the committee and from the provisions of the Bill as given in the old. Therefore it cannot be said that we have not drawn largely from that Bill. We have drawn largely also from the opinion of experts who were called to sit in deliberation over the provisions of the Report of the Select Committee. Therefore the old Bill is not dead. It is absorbed in the new one and we owe to a very great extent to the labours of the Select Committee that was formed by the previous Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some objections have been raised—objections that should be raised, debated and decided upon in the Select Committee. I welcome an opportunity to have different view-points of the different communities who find representation on the Secondary Board of Education. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the prehistoric days there was a great deluge. Readers of the Testament may know that there was a

great deluge during the time of Prophet Noah. That deluge was for the purpose of relieving the world of the accumulated sins of the past generations. Noah had a direction from the Almighty, "You must construct an ark in which you must take a pair of animals of all species from the world, so that the creation might still continue after the deluge had subsided," and accordingly Noah took a pair of animals of every species of creation in that ark which he took to the highest peak of the mountain, namely, of Mount Sinai. Mine is a thing like that. It is a small vessel—the country craft, the provincial craft—in which we have taken the representatives of all the communities, so that the education of the people in general may not suffer because of the absence of the presentation of view-points from any particular community. That shows why we have a multiplicity of sub-committees and all that. My friends over there said yesterday that education should be secular and that the Secondary Education Board should not make any provision for the religious instruction of any community. There was an effective reply given by our honourable friend sitting over there. Some reply was given today by Mr. Badrudduja of my party. I will simply add to it by saying that when I left the Council of State at the party farewell His Excellency Lord Irwin told me, "Khan Bahadur, if you are true to your religion, if you are true to yourself, you will have come very near the discovery of the secret of life and the discharge of the obligations that human fellowship calls upon us all." I cannot tolerate for a single moment any proposition like that. A Senior Judge from the Madras Presidency one day asked me in conversation, "Khan Bahadur, can you tell me why Bengal which led the rest of India is now lagging behind?" The simple answer that I gave was, "Sir, because we have taken leave of God and God has accordingly forsaken us." I have read a book where it is stated that the most successful man is he who is most religious; the most scientific man is he who is most religious. The author narrated some 10 or 12 sentences with this burden saying that the most successful man is he who is religious. Religion is the foundation of everything. How can you cut off connection from that foundation? The suggestion made by my friends over there, if I may be permitted to say so, was simply obnoxious. Therefore we have provided for religious education also.

I do not wish to detain the House any longer because I am looking forward to a very full and fair discussion in the Select Committee and if the members of the Select Committee would require further information on the subject, the Select Committee has the power to examine witnesses too.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1942, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Karim that the Bengal Secondary Education Bill, 1942, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Mr. Syed Badrudduja,
(2) Dr. Sanaullah,
(3) Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan,
(4) Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal,
(5) Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur,
(6) Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas,
(7) Babu Premhari Barma,
(8) Dr. H. C. Mukherji,
(9) Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy,
(10) Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin, C.B.E.,
(11) Mr. Fazlur Rahman (Dacca),
(12) Mr. Abdulla-Al Mahmood,
(13) Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri,
(14) Mr. Atul Chandra Sen,
(15) Mr. Shahedali,
(16) Mr. W. C. Wordsworth, C.I.E., and
(17) the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education Department (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report by the 31st July, 1942, the number of members forming the quorum being nine,

was then put and agreed to.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. May I have your ruling on the point of order that was raised on many days in succession regarding the powers and duties of the Deputy Speaker in the absence of the Speaker. We are very much concerned that in spite of your repeated assurances you have not given us your ruling. Today is the last day——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Dr. Sanyal. I shall give the ruling today after the business in the Order Paper is over.

Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1942.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, I beg to move that the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1942, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Banerjee, are you moving your motions?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: No, Sir. I am opposing the motion of the Hon'ble Minister.

I rise to oppose the Bill and my reasons for objection are as follows. First of all, I am opposed to the principle of discrimination that is involved in the Bill. I am opposed to any principle of discrimination, but in this particular case the discrimination has taken a rather very ugly shape. Sir, the Bill assumes that the labourers are mere *goondas*, that the labourers do not abide by the existing order and that the labourers at the earliest opportunity will take to looting, plunder, arson and what not. As a labour representative, I from the very core of my heart oppose it, not only oppose it but rather condemn the Bill. I have much experience of labourers and as a result of this experience I can say that they are not so bad as the public in general think them to be. On the other hand, I consider the labourers to be as honest, if not more honest, than any people in the world. The labourers are the people who do not exploit any one. They are the people who are exploited by all else in the world. The labourers are the only people who live by the sweat of their brow and are deprived of what they earn. If properly approached, the labourers respond with an open, heart. That is my experience. Therefore I cannot think for a moment that the labourers would be the first men to take to looting and plunder if any opportunity arises. I can give you one instance. Two months back, there was a strike of over 25,000 people at the Budge-Budge Jute Mills. The time is panicky and the labourers also are panicky. I thought that during this strike the labourers might do occasional violence, especially as the Government took to repressive measures as soon as the strike broke out. The Government even arrested and interned some of the leaders. Still though the labourers continued the strike for one month perfect peace prevailed. As a result of that strike, the labourers lost about Rs. 5 lakhs, but they never complained of the loss. As a result of the strike, they have as yet in spite of repeated assurances from Government got nothing. Still they have not done anything. They are perfectly peaceful. In this connection, I would ask the House to remember one historical occasion—the occasion of Russian Revolution in November 1917—when the labourers took possession of the winter palace of the Czars at

St. Petersburg. The palace was full of jewels, ornaments, beautiful vessels, etc., and the labourers were naturally tempted to appropriate them for themselves. But as soon as a voice from behind shouted out that no public property would be taken by any one, at once the labourers withdrew their stretched out hands, stopped from taking anything. That shows the mentality of the labourers. They are the most peaceful people in the world; they are the most lovable people in the world; they are the most truthful people in the world and they do not exploit any one. They do not cheat any one. They live by honest means, by the sweat of their brow. Therefore, Sir, I am opposed to this principle of discrimination. I am also opposed to the Bill because the Bill is very terroristic. The Bill says that if any man with or without any dangerous or offensive instrument be found in or near any dwelling house, he may be taken into custody by a police officer without warrant and shall be liable on summary trial by a Magistrate to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months. Look how drastic are the provisions of this Bill. No summons is required, no warrant is required, an ordinary police officer may arrest a man only on suspicion and there will be no proper trial, summary conviction, imprisonment to a term which may extend to 3 months. The time is already panicky and the labourers are already panicky. We are hearing all sorts of rumours and if on top of that panic this terrorism is added, I think the labourers will do things which in the normal course of events they would never do. Therefore I oppose the Bill.

I hear that the European members of this House are in favour of this Bill. As a labour representative I can assure them that if the legitimate grievances of labourers are redressed, if they can get what they have been demanding, if they get proper dearness allowance, if they get proper assurance that the factories will not be burnt down, if they get an assurance that in case of air raid proper care will be taken of them, if an assurance is given that in case of casualty they will be properly looked after and their families will be properly looked after, I can give an assurance that there will be nothing to fear from labourers. Many questions arise in this connection. It raises the question of scorched earth policy. Every one of us is busy touring all the labour areas and we know the mentality of labourers. They are hearing that dynamites are being placed underneath the factories and that extreme scorched earth policy will be followed by the Government. Sir, I do not know what is going to be the policy of Government in this matter. The labourers should be given an assurance that whatever be the result of the battle, whether the British or the Japanese become victors, no scorched earth policy will be followed in this country. The labourers love the mills and factories as much as their proprietors. They know that if factories are demolished and burnt down to ashes, their source of income will for ever disappear. Therefore, Sir, on

behalf of the Government and on behalf of the employers, a definite assurance should be given that no scorched earth policy will be followed. If such an assurance is given, if the grievances of labourers are redressed, if proper A. R. P. arrangements are made and if proper relief is given, then I can give an assurance that there will be no need for any such drastic legislation.

Sir, I put in some amendments, but I won't move them. My reasons for not moving them are these. My idea at the time of putting in these amendments was this. First of all, there is no need for this legislation. Ordinary criminal law is quite enough. In case any legislation is thought necessary for a particular set of people, that legislation should be extended to the whole of Bengal. My argument is this. Don't have any legislation of this nature at all. But if there is to be any legislation at all, if there is to be any coercion, let all of us, let the whole of Bengal, bear the brunt of that coercion. First of all my point is, let there be no legislation. But if there is to be any legislation, it should be for us all. But some of my friends are not of the same opinion. They think that instead of making the whole of Bengal suffer let some people suffer; let a particular section suffer. It is therefore will great reluctance that I am not moving my amendments. I think that the amendments ought to have been moved.

With these few words, I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to seriously consider my request not to make the labourers more panicky by passing such drastic legislation.

Mr. I. A. CLARK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of the Hon'ble Minister. I am afraid Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee has entirely mistaken the intention and scope of this Bill. There is no intention, as I see it, to interfere in any way with the law-abiding citizen, whether he be a labourer or whether he be a *burrah sahib*. This Bill is simply designed to check the activities of certain organised gangs, who are going about in the industrial areas like Asansol (which is within the division which I represent) and other places——

Mr. KIRAN SHANKAR ROY: Do you mean the Managing Director?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Are not the ordinary laws quite sufficient?

Mr. I. A. CLARK: They are stealing machinery and all kinds of things which are absolutely essential for those industrial undertakings which are vitally engaged in manufacturing products required for the war. Therefore, Sir, I beg to support the motion of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I am glad that Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee has not thought it fit to move his amendments, but he has made it distinctly clear as to the reasons which actuated him in tabling his amendments. I can at once tell him that he is labouring under a misapprehension. This legislation will not at all be new. Such legislation is already in existence in Calcutta and Howrah. It is only extending the scope of that legislation in industrial areas to which such legislation at present does not apply. It is not a new legislation at all in that sense. Only the applicability of such legislation is brought into being so far as the industrial area is concerned. I may remind him that sections 32 and 54A of the Calcutta Police Act which are extended to Howrah are on these lines. It has been found necessary that legislation of this character should be made available to those who are responsible for the maintenance of peace and order and for the safety of the life and property of private individuals or corporations in those industrial areas. I refuse to believe that labour will grow more panicky on account of this legislation. Labour is essentially, substantially and overwhelmingly honest to the core, and they will not have any occasion to be afraid of the applicability of such legislation in industrial areas. I am sure Dr. Banerjee will agree with me that this intended provision is expected to reach only those who are habitual thieves and who are so minded as to take advantage of the peculiar position in industrial areas to commit thefts either of a petty nature or on an elaborate scale. It is only such persons who are to be hit by this legislation which is now before the House.

Dr. Banerjee has also raised the question as to whether this legislation should be extended to the whole of Bengal. To a certain extent my friend's argument is self-contradictory. First of all, he says that it is not necessary, but in the next place he says, if necessary, it is necessary for the whole of Bengal. I do not quite follow the chain of such an argument. In any event I think that there is no reason whatsoever on the part of honest labour or of honest citizen to be afraid of the applicability of this legislation or extension of operation of this law in Bengal. I think the House will have no hesitation in accepting my motion and in passing this legislation.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu that the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1942, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, be taken into consideration, was then put and agreed to.

The question that clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the Preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1942, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as passed by the Council.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as passed by the Council——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, Dr. Sanyal. You cannot move that Bill at this stage.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But, Sir, I have already moved my motion.

Date of submission of Select Committee Reports.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, there are two matters to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. There are two Bills the date of submission of the Select Committee Reports of which has expired. I ask for an extension of time.

I move that the date of submission of the Select Committee Report on the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be extended to 31st July, 1942, and similarly I move that the date of submission of the Select Committee Report on the Bengal Pure Food Bill, 1940, be extended to 31st July, 1942.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

(No objection was raised from any side of the House.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for the submission of the Select Committee Reports on the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1940, and the Bengal Pure Food Bill, 1940, is extended up to 31st July, 1942.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May I in this connection, Sir, refer to the Bengal Widows' Home Bill of Begum Farhat Bano Khanum. It was sent to the Select Committee and the time for the submission of the Select Committee report on that Bill had been extended several times. I therefore move that the time should be further extended and Government should be asked to expedite the deliberations of the Select Committee. The Bill was tabled and moved by a member of this party and was referred to a Select Committee, but the Select Committee is not being called at all. I submit it is a question of privilege of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will look into the file and give necessary direction.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want to move that time be extended in the case of Bengal Widows' Home Bill to 30th June, 1942.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is the mover of that Bill?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mrs. Shahabuddin.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I know nothing about it, Sir.

The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1941, as passed by the Council.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about the Bill that I have already placed before the House for consideration? The Bill was passed by the Council in September last, and I hope the House will accept it without any amendment.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. The Bill of Dr. Sanyal is a non-official Bill, but today is the day for Government business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider that point of view.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is that point of view, Sir? I have moved my motion with regard to this Bill and it is now before the House for its consideration The notice, dated the 26th March, 1942, makes it clear that I can move my motion after Government business is finished.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have consulted the Home Department which has refused to allot any day for your Bill.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But you are not to be guided by the Home Department, Sir. You have got the rules of the Assembly to guide you, whatever may be the biassed opinion of the Home Department. If you would refer to the Assembly Rules of Procedure you will find that there is nothing whatever to prevent non-official business being taken up on a Government business day after Government business is finished.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give my decision on the point of order raised by you——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am not raising any point of order, Sir. The Bill is already before the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are in the habit of raising points of order off and on and you have done so just now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We have got plenty of time. We can sit till quarter past eleven. In the meantime the Bill may be considered and finished.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I understand, Sir, you will consider this question. Will you look up the rules and then give your ruling?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let those who are objecting point out the rules. It is no use raising a wild cry against the Bill.

Short-notice question regarding the whereabouts of Babu Priti Ranjan Ghosh, wireless operator, Port Blair.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, there was a short-notice question regarding the whereabouts of Babu Priti Ranjan Ghosh, wireless operator in Port Blair in the Andamans. As the short-notice question has not been answered, may I request the Government to let us know through the Press or privately what has happened to him?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will request the Government to inform you if it is possible for the Government to give you the required information.

Dr. Sanyal, I am definite about your motion. There was a notice by the office undoubtedly but after that I received another letter from the Home Department. I have got the relevant section of the rules—section 18.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you kindly read that out?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have read that and I am sure you have done that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That rule says that every day Government business will have precedence. That does not mean that after Government business is finished other business cannot be taken up except on Friday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This much I can do, that I will consult the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If the rule be read to the House, it will be able to judge.

Point of Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you raised a point of order on the floor of the House contending that during the absence of the Speaker all the duties of the office of the Speaker should devolve on the Deputy Speaker under section 65(3) of the Government of India Act, including the administration of the Assembly Office. So long I was under the impression that you would forget the matter, and I was also feeling considerable hesitation in giving my ruling for obvious reasons, but when you are pressing for the same day in and day out I feel constrained to give my ruling on the subject.

The position is rather anomalous. I am not in a position to state whether the post of Speaker is vacant or not as provided for in section 65(3) of the Government of India Act. If it is deemed vacant, in that case all the duties of the office of the Speaker shall devolve on the Deputy Speaker till the House elects its Speaker.

The notificfiation No 8354A R., of 1st April, 1937, issued by the Home Department (Constitution and Elections) in exercise of the power conferred under section 241 of the Government of India Act is against the spirit of section 65(3), as there is no provision under which the duties of office of the Speaker may be performed by the Deputy Speaker when the post of the former is vacant. I am definitely of opinion that clause 18 of the said notification is *ultra vires*. In view of the ruling given by me, it is the duty of the Government to secure the alteration of clause 18 of the said notification.

The House stands adjourned till 11-15 a.m.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 10-55 a.m till 11-15 a.m.

(After adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need hardly make any speech to add to what I said regarding the Bengal Local Self-Government Act.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can tell you one thing. There is hardly any time for discussion of this Bill, but I can assure you that I will take up this Bill in the next session, and I hope you will not press for it. (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is not this assurance also coming from the Hon'ble Minister in charge?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the Hon'ble Minister will agree with me.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, wholeheartedly.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is there any personal understanding between the Chair and the honourable members? (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the assurance, Sir, I do not press.

Address to His Excellency.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I would like to know what progress has been made about my address——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No progress has been made, but I can give you this assurance that your address to His Excellency will be permitted next session.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Next session হবে তো Sir? (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh yes. (Renewed laughter.)

Point of Enquiry.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Till His Excellency arrives may I on a point of enquiry ask you as to whether you are prepared to follow the tradition of the Speaker, Sir Azizul Haque? When he was elected Speaker, he introduced a very healthy practice of giving parties to the members of the Legislature. (Laughter.) Mr. Deputy Speaker, you promised that you will follow the footsteps of the Speaker, and I hope you will do so in this respect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I have already said on two more occasions, I will certainly make arrangements next session. (Renewed laughter.)

Felicitations to the Chair.

The Hon'ble Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before His Excellency's arrival, I think I may voice the unanimous sense of this House in expressing our high sense of appreciation for the ability with which you have discharged the arduous duties of the Budget Session.

Sir, these responsibilities were cast upon you with some suddenness and uncertainty because it was expected that the Hon'ble Speaker will be in a position to guide the deliberations of this House during the

entire Budget Session. But that was not found possible. Sir, when these duties were cast upon your shoulders you took them up cheerfully and have succeeded in conducting the deliberations of this House, if I may say so once more, with great ability and with great success. We have always had great courtesy at your hands and every one had ample opportunity of putting questions, and of saying their say. You have held the scales even between man and man and between party and party. I think I voice the opinion of the entire House when I say that we thank you for all that you have done in tiding over the difficulties of the Budget Session.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on behalf of the Muslim League Parliamentary Party, I would like to associate ourselves with all that has been said by Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu.

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the European Party I would like to associate my party and myself with the remarks made by the Hon'ble Minister. We thank you, Sir, for the ability and skill with which you have conducted the proceedings of this House.

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, on behalf of the Scheduled Castes Party, we associate ourselves with the sentiments that have already been expressed by the previous speakers. It was a foregone conclusion, Sir, that you would be a success here, because in the Calcutta Corporation you were once the Chairman of a Committee and there you had a tremendous success. Therefore, Sir, we had every hope that you would be a success here also. As the Hon'ble Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu has already told us, during the arduous Budget Session you have conducted the deliberations of this House with great credit and we therefore hope for better things for you in future.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you all for the kind words that you have expressed this morning. I have nothing to say in this matter. I know my shortcomings. I have not been able to satisfy my friends, but I always kept in mind to give protection as far as possible to the minority, I mean the Opposition, and if I have incurred the displeasure of the majority party in this House it was only because it was, as you know, my inherent tendency to support the Opposition. (Cries of "Hear! Hear!") Once more I thank you for the kind words you have spoken.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: On a point of information, Sir. These things are said either in the beginning, *i.e.*, when the Deputy Speaker or the

Speaker is appointed or when they retire, *i.e.*, towards the close of their career. May I know what is the occasion for showering benedictions upon you today? (Laughter.)

Address by His Excellency the Governor.

At 11-30 a.m. the First Assistant Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Assembly announced to Mr. Deputy Speaker that His Excellency the Governor was without.

Mr. Deputy Speaker then left his seat on the *dais* and met His Excellency in the centre of the inner square under the small dome in the vestibule. His Excellency then entered the Chamber in procession with Mr. Deputy Speaker and, at the request of Mr. Deputy Speaker, took his seat on the Speaker's Chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker being seated on His Excellency's right.

His Excellency Sir JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT—

Mr. Deputy Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly, I have sought the opportunity of addressing you at the end of the session because there are certain matters which I should like you to consider before you return to your constituencies. It would have been my wish to address a joint session of both Chambers of the Legislature, and I regret that that has not been possible, since the Council has been prorogued, and I feel that it might have caused inconvenience to summon its members at short notice. I have therefore decided to address the Legislative Assembly, and I hope you will agree with me that the moment is opportune and that what I say to you is of great importance to the people of this province and to you, their representatives.

You are about to return to your constituencies at a time when Bengal, after centuries of peace, stands in grave peril. It is possible that before this Assembly meets again there may be momentous events in the theatre of war. Let us look at the facts squarely. Recent events in Malaya and Burma have brought nearer the threat to India, and more particularly to her Eastern Provinces. It is not unnatural that this campaign has overshadowed in the popular mind the events that have taken place in other theatres of war, and has given rise to apprehensions that Eastern India may be attacked from the air, or invaded. Yet the defences of Eastern India are not limited by her territorial boundaries, nor are they independent of the tactical situation elsewhere. They are related to the campaigns in Europe and Africa, to the battles of the Atlantic and the Pacific, and in each theatre of operations the tactical situation reacts upon the situation elsewhere. No country at war can act separately, from its allies, in the same way that no battalion

or brigade can act independently of the co-ordinated plan of operations. Our task therefore is to fit in with the general scheme of strategy, and to see how we can best play our part in meeting this threat to the province.

Let me take first the possibility that enemy action will take the form of an air attack. The battle of Britain was won partly by the Royal Air Force, but no less by the spirit of the civil population. No town was better defended than London, but the battle of London was won because the civil population remained at work, undaunted by repeated air raids, thus enabling the civic life of the city to continue unimpaired. The same spirit of endurance and fortitude has been shown by the people of Chungking, whose city has been subjected to repeated attacks from the air during the past four and half years. Calcutta and perhaps other cities of this province may be put to the same test, and it depends to a large extent upon the citizens whether the battle is won or lost. In the defence of any city three things are essential—guns, aeroplanes and civilian morale, and the greatest of these is morale. To those of you who reside in this city, I say with full conviction that your influence can play a great part in sustaining morale, and it is my earnest hope that you will use your endeavours to that end.

As legislators you know what preparations have been made for the civil defence of Calcutta and Bengal and owing to changes in party alignment it is a fact that the majority of parties have been or are responsible for these preparations. It will be appreciated that the whole scheme of civil defence depends ultimately upon the co-operation of the general public. But in order to obtain co-ordination and to assist and guide the public detailed preparations and properly organised and disciplined services are necessary. We have our Wardens' Service, our Casualty and First Aid Services, our Rescue Service, our Fire-fighting Services, our Depôts and our Control Rooms. The men in these Services are standing to their posts, and will, I believe, play their part with courage and resolution if they are called upon. There is still room for more recruits, but they must be men who are prepared to come forward voluntarily to help in the defence of their homes and their neighbours' homes, and to stick to their posts, whatever happens. I would rather go into battle with a score of trustworthy men than with a hundred waverers, and I have no doubt that those who are now in the services, and have given up their leisure to prepare themselves, hold the same view. The civil defence services are prepared to carry out their task, and ask only for the co-operation of their fellow-citizens.

For the protection of the civil population a large number of slit trenches and public shelters are available. Experience in Britain, no less than in Burma and elsewhere, has shown that if people will learn

the vital lesson of taking cover when the alarm is sounded, and remaining under cover until the all-clear sounds, they are immune from the worst danger. I repeat that the danger is greatly minimised if every man and woman decides now where to go during an air-raid, and stays there until the raid is over. On the other hand, the danger to people, who out of ignorance or curiosity remain in the open, is very real.

Before I turn to the other possible form of enemy attack, I should like to say something regarding the apprehensions which have been frequently expressed lest an outbreak of looting should occur in this city. If there are any doubts on this score, let me assure you that apart from the large military force available to maintain internal order, the police force in Calcutta has been considerably strengthened, and it is the intention of my Government to deal most drastically with any attempts at arson or looting which might follow an air-raid and Special Courts are also being set up which will have enhanced powers, and will employ a summary procedure in dealing with offenders.

Arrangements have been made by Government for the supply and distribution of food, and a large number of employers, realising the fears arising from the uncertainty of supplies, have already set up shops for the sale of food and essentials to their employees at normal prices. I would urge that this example be followed by all so that there may be no uncertainty as to supply. My Government further intend to enforce a rigid control over prices, and the movement of food stocks and other essentials.

Throughout the province the Police Force has been strengthened and the Civic Guard organisation is being overhauled and put on a more efficient footing. In addition, further demands will be made for voluntary service in maintaining internal security and in giving warning of the approach of the enemy; and I expect that shortly volunteers will be asked for to join an expanded Observer Corps and other Units designed to achieve the above objects. These precautions are essential to our internal security in times of emergency, and I feel sure you will agree with me that they will not only strengthen public morale, but are of great potential value in preventing any form of fifth column activity. Let me make it perfectly clear that it is my intention and that of my Government to deal drastically with any such form of activity.

The other danger which threatens this province is invasion by land or sea-borne troops. Before I refer to the action which will, I hope, be taken by the civil population in such an emergency, I should like to say something regarding the policy of denying to the enemy certain essentials which, if they fell into his hands, might facilitate his advance. There has been a great deal of misunder-

of denial is the equivalent of the "scorched earth policy" adopted in Russia. I can assure you that there is no intention to enforce a scorched earth policy in the districts of Bengal; indeed, the very expression "scorched earth" should be entirely abandoned, since it is misleading and gives rise to groundless apprehensions. There is no intention on the part of Government or the Army to burn villages, or to remove stocks of grain from villagers' houses. But as you know, there are certain districts in which the production of paddy is in excess of the normal requirements of those districts. Should these surplus stocks of grain fall in the hands of the enemy, there might result distress and even famine in those districts which do not produce sufficient for their own needs. It has, therefore, been decided to take measures to remove the surplus stocks from the districts concerned, but it is not intended to remove any paddy, or other food grains, which are needed for the normal requirements of the civil population.

The other form of denial that is intended in the districts is to prevent any means of transport from falling into the enemy's hands. I feel sure you will agree with me that it would be fatal to leave motor cars, stocks of petrol, bicycles, boats, or other means of transport to facilitate the enemy's progress. The lessons of Malaya and Burma have taught us that. It is, therefore, our policy to deny to the enemy all means of movement or transport. If it should ever happen that, in the view of the Military authorities, the invasion of any district of Bengal was imminent, all forms of transport, whether by land or water would have to be removed. Let me explain that if it became necessary for Government to deprive individuals of any means of transport or conveyance, it is the intention to pay compensation to them. I need hardly observe that compensatoin would *not* be forthcoming in the event of such transport falling into the hands of the enemy. This denial of the means of communication would involve the co-operation of the civil population, who may be asked, should the emergency arise, to hand in bicycles at thana or district headquarters, and to remove country-boats from the danger zone to an area of safety. I realise that this must inevitably cause inconvenience and possibly dislocation in the economic life of the district concerned; I realise that country-boats are to the people of East Bengal the principal means of movement, and the only means of movement during the rains; but I feel sure you will appreciate that if the people in an invaded area can deny all means of transport to the enemy they may be instrumental in saving the rest of the province. I am able to tell you that the highest Military Authority is of opinion that the effective co-operation of the civil population in removing, utterly and completely, all forms of transport would be of the greatest strategic value —indeed, of greater value than the raising in this province of several divisions of troops. That is a matter in which you as representatives

of the people, can be of the greatest assistance in securing their co-operation and explaining to them that any temporary inconvenience they may be called upon to suffer by the action which I have described may mean the salvation of their country.

Let us recognise that while it does not lie in the province to direct or control Military Operations, it is the duty both of Government and the people to facilitate those operations by conforming to the fullest extent and co-operating in every way. It is for this reason, and because this Legislature represents predominantly the rural areas of Bengal, that in speaking to you today I have laid so much stress upon the duties of the rural people. The great industrial areas, of which we are so proud, and to which this province owes so much of its prosperity, are in a separate problem in which the Central Government is vitally concerned; and those whose interests are affected have full means of access to the Central Government itself. It is not, therefore, for me to define in detail the policy of the Central Government in this respect, and this is not the forum in which a pronouncement on that matter should be made. But I may say this much, that in industrial and urban areas, while our plans must provide in the last resort for the most effective embarrassment of the enemy, there is no intention of indulging in wanton destruction of industrial wealth or civil necessities.

I have earlier referred briefly to the attitude of my Government towards any manifestation of fifth column activity. No country at war can afford to take any risks. The history of this war shows only too clearly the damage that has been done by men of the Quisling type in different countries. The fall of Norway, of Denmark, of Holland and many other countries was due to the Trojan horse tactics of the fifth column organised by men who sold their country to the enemy. The aim of such traitors is to undermine authority so that people mistrust orders designed for their own safety. Instructions given for the protection of life and property are then disregarded through misunderstanding, and the result is confusion and panic, mutual distrust and recrimination, and finally chaos.

I and my Government intend to deal firmly with all such activities, at whatever cost to popularity, in the knowledge that by so doing we shall not only earn the respect and the thanks of this province, of India and the united nations but may be saving our province from a danger that might imperil her whole future.

A lesser evil than the fifth columnist—but still an evil—is the individual who spreads mischievous rumours. He may have no deliberate intention of aiding the enemy, but he may do so, none the less. Equally guilty is the individual who gives credence to such rumours instead of endeavouring to pin down their origin, countering

them, and taking steps to report the rumour-monger. It is by believing and passing on unconfirmed stories that rumours may develop which are capable of affecting morale and even of leading to panic. No less important is it to avoid careless references to the movement of troops or materials of war which may give away information of the greatest value to the enemy. I earnestly appeal through you to the public to be careful in their speech and writing, to discredit wild stories or rumours, to do their utmost to counteract them, and to refrain from repeating anything that seems to be of doubtful authenticity.

I do not imply by this that there is any intention of limiting freedom of speech or the liberty of the Press. I realise the extent of the co-operation we have received from the Press, and I personally appreciate the spirit in which its representatives have met me at conferences. I know that I can rely upon their support in the suppression of rumours, in the guidance of public opinion to that end, and in any measures taken to ensure the successful prosecution of the war.

Let me now reiterate what are our duties if we are faced with the actualities of air attack or invasion. Let us make it our common object to defend this province against Japanese aggression. Let us see to it that if the enemy crosses our frontiers, or lands upon our shores, he will have the least possible chance of success through the denial of any means of transport. Let us bear with courage and resolution the ordeal of air raids should they occur. Let us keep our civic life unimpaired, our civil morale high, and unaffected by rumour, our factories working, our war production moving at full speed. Let us devote all our efforts to helping our Army and Air Force. Let us undergo cheerfully any inconveniences which their requirements may involve. Finally, let us hold fast to the knowledge that in the fulness of time our enemies will be defeated. They are opposed not only by the growing strength of the United Nations, but by the determination of people throughout the civilised world to put an end for ever to the domination of dictatorship. Whatever power the dictators may now wield, I am convinced that the great mass of people throughout the world desire above all things freedom to live their own lives in their own way. It is that great force of humanity which will eventually overthrow the rule of the dictator, and bring the world to "happier days and broader lands." Surely it is for Bengal to demonstrate in what manner she can help the world movement. The task before us is one calling for the mobilisation of all resources in the province in the face of imminent danger. The need for a united War Front is urgent.

Not long ago I invited the leaders of all parties and groups in the Legislature to a conference, and asked them certain questions with the object of ascertaining their views on the possibility of forming such a War Front through a Government which would be representative of

all parties. Some of the leaders at that time were of the opinion that no Government representative of all parties would be possible in Bengal until the all-India problem had been solved or some agreement had been reached between the major political parties. I believe I am voicing the opinion of every honourable member in this House when I say that it is our wish and hope that such a settlement will be reached. But the point which I put to you now is that if it is still impossible at this critical moment to sink party differences and to form a Government representing all parties; if the battle of party politics must continue on the floor of this Assembly, nevertheless there is no reason why every honourable member in this Assembly, whatever his political views, should not rally the people in support of the war effort, and help to maintain their public morale in face of the danger that threatens their country.

I should welcome an opportunity of meeting party leaders tomorrow to discuss with them the means by which their supporters can best bring home to the people of Bengal what can be done to put every possible obstacle in the path of the enemy. I trust that on this vital issue I shall have the support of all, irrespective of party or sectional interests.

Let me remind you of the words of His Excellency the Viceroy in his recent message. He said, "The land we live in is threatened with danger. This is a call to action for every one of us. Close the ranks, and stand shoulder to shoulder against an aggressor, whose conduct, in the peaceful countries which he has outraged, brands him as barbarous and pitiless." And again—"We are members of a worthy company, China, Russia, America, Britain and a score of others; let each one of us in India be worthy of our own country and of our comrades." When you consider those words, I would ask you also to consider whether it would not be possible for you, on returning to your constituencies, to implement the intention of that message —to do everything possible to help and maintain public morale; to strengthen the people's spirit of resistance to the enemy; to eradicate elements that tend to undermine the spirit of resistance and public confidence; to counteract subversive activities of all kinds likely to produce a defeatist mentality, and to consolidate the will of the people to offer united resistance to the enemy in every shape and form until this menace to the safety of our province is overthrown.

His Excellency then left the Chamber in procession.

Prorogation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor that the Bengal Legislative Assembly do now stand prorogued.

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